AGENDA
The Denver Public Library Commission
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting
Thursday, February 17, 2022, 8:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
Online
This meeting will virtual and can be joined through the following link or phone number:
https://us02web.zoom.us/s/87081746369
Phone: 1-312-626-6799, Webinar ID: 870 8174 6369

1. Call to order.

2. Introductions.

3. Approval of Commission Minutes from December 16, 2021. Commission


5. Public Comment Period.

6. Report of the President and Members.

7. Sustainable Funding and Governance Update. Lynea Hansen

8. Education and Awareness Campaign. Erika Martinez


12. Mobile Services Presentation. Hana Zittel

13. Approval of Naming of Blair-Caldwell Archives Room for Honorable Wilma J. Webb.

14. Other Business.

15. Adjournment.
Agenda Item 3
Requested Action: Approval

MINUTES
The Denver Public Library Commission
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting
Thursday, December 16, 2021, 8:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library,
2401 Welton St, Denver, CO 80205
Large Conference Room

Commissioners: Jehan Benton-Clark, Zi Chong, Cathy Lucas, Laurie Mathews, Michael Niyompong, Patty Salazar, Sonya Ulibarri

Staff: Ozy Aloziem, Danielle Brooks, Bec Czarnecki, Kirsten Decker, Jina Dunn, Rachel Fewell, Michelle Jeske, Elaine Langeberg, Zeth Lietzau, Amber Lindberg, Erika Martinez, Stacey Grijalva

Guests: Jeff Riley, Friends Foundation; Lynea Hansen, Hansen Communications; Derek Okubo; Anne Manner-McLarty

1. Call to order.
   The meeting was called to order at 8:41 a.m.

2. Introductions.
   Staff and guests present introduced themselves.

3. Approval of October 21, 2021 Commission Minutes. Commission
   The minutes were approved as written.

4. Public Comment Period.
   NA

5. Report of the President and Members.

   Election of Officers
   Benton-Clark presented the 2022 slate of officers on behalf of the nominating committee comprised of herself, Lucas, and Niyompong. The slate is as follows:
   - Cathy Lucas, president
   - Sonya Ulibarri, vice president
   - Laurie Mathews, secretary
   On behalf of the nominating committee Benton-Clark made a motion for the election of the slate of new officers as presented. Chong seconded and the slate was approved as presented.
2022 Library Commission Committees and Liaisons

Jeske worked with Lucas on reviewing the 2022 committee assignments and Commissioners were asked to review and make suggestions or corrections. There is an opening on the Finance Committee that may be filled by the incoming Commissioner who has a finance background. Ulibarri offered to help with the Juanita Gray Community Service Awards for now as there is some overlap with the Latino Awards. Commissioner Salazar will work with Lucas and transition to the Eleanor Gheres Awards Committee.

Other Updates

Lucas welcomed Benton-Clark back from maternity leave and noted her appreciation for how she has jumped back into the work. She also welcomed Salazar as this is her first official meeting.

Cedric Buchanon will be the new Commissioner. He is the Senior Vice President and Regional Manager at Bank of the West. He also served on the education compact committee with the Mayor and Jeske.

Lucas talked about the Eleanor Gehres Award which was established in recognition of Eleanor Gehres' longtime service and contributions to the Western History and Genealogy (WHG) Department which she headed from 1974-1999. The event will be held in April 2022 and nominations will be accepted until January 15th.

Lucas thanked Martinez for a fabulous renaming event to celebrate the John “Thunderbird Man” Emhoolah Jr. Branch. She went on to thank library leadership and DPL staff for all of their work during another challenging year. Benton-Clark echoed thanks for staff and for Martinez’s work. She is also excited that the bond passed and is looking forward to the partnership with Lifespan Local at the new Westwood Branch.

Chong and Niyompong also thanked staff and Niyompong commended Rachel Fewell for her presence on the recent 9News piece and how she highlighted what the library has done for the community through the course of the pandemic.

Mathews noted that she and Chong attended the Friends Foundation’s Holiday Lighting Party and that it was a lovely event. She also talked about the Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC) hearing around the exterior changes DPL wanted for the Central renovation. The hope was to remove some columns along 13th avenue to help open the arcade and to enclose the entrance off of Broadway in glass. The LPC rejected all proposals and the library will consider an appeal and will also take back a component they believe will pass on its own. The library had a lot of support in this hearing. Mathews also noted that the sustainable funding work is continuing and that the Executive Committee for that group continues to meet every Monday. Ulibarri said that she has been grateful for the learning opportunities as we navigate the sustainable funding conversation.

6. Recognition Policy Panel and Discussion. Derek Okubo and Anne Manner-McLarty Jeske and library staff will work on preparing a revised version of the recognition policy. However, DPL needs additional guidance on naming and renaming processes so Jeske invited Derek Okubo and Anne Manner-McLarty to speak to the Commission. Okubo is the Mayor-appointed Executive Director of the Agency for Human Rights and Community Partnerships (HRCP). In this role, he oversees eight offices and 10 mayoral appointed commissions. The agency acts as a conduit of communication and convener of problem solving among local government, non-profits, businesses and residents. He has been
leading the City’s efforts in thinking about renaming after the social justice movements of the past couple years.

Manner-McLarty is the President & Lead Donor Recognition Strategist at Huerista. She created Heurista’s approach to problem solving and the cooperative, creative process that distinguishes their work. Drawing on her training at the Rhode Island School of Design, she developed a reputation for unique, highly successful donor relations and stewardship experiences.

Both Okubo and Manner-McLarty bring different experience and expertise on the issue of naming and renaming. Jeske asked them both to share about some of their recent experiences.

**Recent Experiences**

Manner-McLarty has worked with different types of nonprofits across the US. She talked about how prior to 2020 the conversations were all about the issue of naming perpetuity. People were starting to feel that a name should not be on a building forever. People were also raising questions about the issue of philanthropic funding buying naming opportunities and excluding opportunities for others. This was particularly an issue on college campuses. People were starting to ask what it means to have a name on a campus building and whether or not it contributes to the character and values of the institution. Manner-McLarty said recent social justice movements have accelerated this conversation. People want to think about how to provide some equity and justice in the balance of whose names end up on buildings.

Okubo said that in 2020 the Mayor came to the HRCP Advisory Board, which is made up of 15 members, 10 representatives from City Commissions and 5 at-large community members, to talk about considering names on City assets. They added the two at large City Council members to help with this work as well. They also employed the State Historian’s Council to help with the research. The Advisory Board looked at 423 city assets. Out of 423 assets there were 23 identified as questionable; most were with Parks and Recreation. They had the state historians do additional research and then discussed each one and whether it was appropriate to rename or reframe the name. With reframing the idea was to consider whether there was potential to use the history as a learning opportunity for the community. The recommendations were shared with the Mayor. Okubo noted the work is not for the timid and that what DPL did to rename the former Byers Branch is a good model and will help going forward.

Jeske highlighted how the process Okubo outlined is somewhat similar to what DPL did recently. The Western History and Genealogy team researched branch names and identified Byers and Barnum as problematic. These names were brought to the Commission for review. After a robust process the Byers Branch is now the John “Thunderbird Man” Emhoolah Jr. Branch. The Barnum Branch renaming is on hold right now and is more complex as it was named after the neighborhood not directly after PT Barnum. Okubo noted that was one of the names that came up in their process as well. Barnum was identified as a name to reframe.

*What lessons have you learned?*

Manner-McLarty talked about how design guidelines should support any policy. She feels the existing DPL recognition policy is well written overall but there is some gray space between recognition and naming that could be clarified. She recommended defining naming
and recognition as well as making clear the difference between honorific and philanthropic naming. She says we are in a period of intense philanthropic naming and that it’s important to consider what it takes in addition to money to have your name as an asset at the library. This clarity will help the library not be tempted to make exceptions as the dollar amount offered gets bigger. It’s also helpful to expand the approval circle. That way it’s not just one person making a decision that stays in place for years.

Okubo noted that the trend of reassessing names is not going to stop. The racial reckoning is long overdue. He talked about how having an outside party to help with history and research helps lend legitimacy to the process. The State Historian Council is diverse and prestigious; historians come from across the state. They did the work pro bono for HRCP. Okubo also talked about how conflict is natural in these processes and you just have to work through it. The reality is that not everyone will be happy. It helps to have really clear criteria for new names that can be included as part of the policy document.

Questions and Comments

- Q: Should we avoid naming assets after people?
  A: Okubo noted that naming after people is where most of the controversy happens. He says no one is perfect and you have to make sure you have a strong case for the name. Not everything will get renamed. Manner-Mclarty added that naming after people is not necessarily a tradition people will want to, or should, give up. A clear line between recognition and naming is important. We can recognize many people and make tighter rules around naming. The example she gave was from a religious private school. The monks felt naming after individuals was not in keeping with the value of humility. What they decided to do was to name after a spiritual leader and note who had provided the gift. We need to work to encourage philanthropy that doesn’t revolve just around naming.

Commissioners and Jeske thanked Okubo and Manner-McLarty for their time and expertise.

7. Sustainable Funding Update. Lynea Hansen
   Lynea Hansen of Hansen Communications, along with Cody Belzley, has been working with DPL and DPLFF since March on sustainable funding. Their previous experience is mostly with preschools. They have been working with DPL on a process to get community input on sustainable funding with a task force. There have been four meetings so far and the last meeting will be in January. The first three meetings were information downloads. At the most recent fourth meeting we asked task force members to talk and think about what they were hearing and feeling. It was a powerful meeting. The task force members are in agreement that there should be additional library funding. They also were generally in alignment on how much it should be and what sources it should come from. On the issue of governance the task force has been asked to consider whether DPL should remain an independent City agency or try to move to an independent district. This was a more difficult conversation for the task force and people agreed the details are important in deciding that issue.
   Hansen and Belzley are working on a document that encapsulates what they have heard from the task force and will have them review it and give feedback. The hope is to
have the task force approve this document and the direction it outlines at the final meeting in January. Once the document has been signed off on it will be brought to the Mayor’s Office and City Council in February in individual meetings to see what questions arise. The Mayor’s Office and City Council have been kept up to date on the activities of the task force. We have approximately three to four months to have conversations with the City before deciding on a course of action.

Commissioner Mathews thanked Hansen and noted what a thoughtful and robust process this has been. Commissioner Benton-Clark asked if Hansen knows of anything else that will be on the 2022 ballot or how many issues. Hansen is not aware of anything at this time. She noted that advice from Council was to not get so caught up in the process that we miss the window to get on a ballot if desired. We will likely hear about other initiatives in March or April which is why we would like our process to be finalized in February so we can be out talking about it first.

Commissioner Chong asked Hansen to talk about what the next major decision points are. Hansen responded that this will be discussed in greater detail at the joint meeting of the Foundation and Commission in January. Deciding on what governance model to pursue is the big decision point.

Jeske reiterated that we have a unique position. There may be a creative way to get our needs met without a district. The bottom line is that DPL needs additional funding and to be able to solve some significant inefficiencies.

Hansen thanked the Commissioners for their time.

8. **Report of the City Librarian.** Michelle Jeske

   Jeske brought up a few items that were not in her written report. She reported that staff stress and mental health struggles continue to be high and recruitment for positions is difficult.

   Kronos, the time keeping system for the City, has been hacked and is down nationwide. In the interim we will be using manual timesheets and do not have a timeline for when the issue will be resolved.

   It was upsetting but not surprising to have our proposal denied by the Landmark Preservation Committee. The library will resubmit parts that we think will be approved and consider an appeal or an alternative to the other items.

   The names that came forward for the ArtPark branch fell short of expectations so that is on hold for a little bit. The library has come up with a bank of names of community contributors. Jeske would like to bring a name forward at the February meeting. The timing works out given that the opening of the branch has been delayed until mid-January.

   Jeske reiterated what a wonderful event the naming of the John “Thunderbird Man” Emhoolah Jr. Branch was. The family was thrilled and it was very moving.

9. **Strategic Roadmap Update.** Kirsten Decker

   Manager of Strategy and Evaluation Kirsten Decker updated Commissioners on the Strategic Roadmap work. The roadmap is to guide DPL for the next several years. A subset of that is the annual Action Plan which will help ensure we are tracking how we are using resources to fund the most high priority work. Quarterly Action Plan meetings are held with Action Plan Owners to monitor progress. For 2021:

   - **Language Access Plan:** contract is underway and consultant is working with staff
to formulate a recommendation.

- **Special Collections Diversity Audit**: DPL staff have completed 1,806 audits of special collections to date.
- **Culturally Responsive Wellness Model**: Launched Wellness Hours pilot on Oct 1.
- **Youth Belong @ DPL**: The youth voice subcommittee has curated a thoughtful approach that promotes open communication and transparency about this issue. The approach centers a growth narrative while providing space for critical feedback.
- **Strategic Management Dashboard**: Successfully selected a vendor! More to come.
- **Data Collection & Use**: Ozy and Kirsten are convening a group of individuals from across the urban library community to discuss the collection of demographic data.
- **EDI Policy Tool**: Creation of equity impact analysis tool and successful pilot with E-Team. Tool has been shared in EDI update post and added to the EDI landing page. Piloting the new policy review process with the privacy policy.

Decker also called out the strategic management dashboard which will launch in 2022 and told Commissioners there is a link to a demo environment for Commissioners in their virtual packet.

The DPL Roadtrip, a tool to help staff across the system engage with the work has been very successful. We have seen 70% participation and are hoping this means staff see themselves in the work. When people reach mile markers they can earn items such as pins and lanyards, or to be entered into a time off drawing. 300 points is the threshold to be entered in the drawing. 45 people have gone above the number of points to earn prizes. We have also had 60% of teams with some engagement and seven teams hit the qualifying mark to win prizes.

In terms of what’s next, Decker said that prioritizing work is really hard but the harder work is living it. She will be continuing to meet with teams and update the Commission as the work progresses.

Ulibarri and Niyompond thanked Kirsten and called out the impressive implementation and participation levels. Decker thanked Commissioners and noted that people are doing unique things to help make it happen.

10. **Approval of 2022 Budget**, Amber Lindberg

Lindberg thanked Decker for her presentation noting that it ties in nicely with the budget presentation. The strategic budgeting process is how we fund the ideas staff bring forward and also ties into the long-term needs of the strategic roadmap.

The proposed 2022 budget has been updated slightly from what was presented to the Commission in June. In June we believed the 2022 budget would be flat. As it turns out we will be receiving an approximately 14% increase in 2022. This restores our budget to pre-pandemic levels. It is largely an increase through the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) for positions and some supplies and the money will be moved into the general fund. This transfer is helpful as ARPA funds are very rigid and can only be used for the purpose they were intended. That the City is moving them to the general fund gives DPL more flexibility.

In the general fund there are some increases and decreases to better classify spending. Administrative Expense is increased primarily due to establishment of an internal
risk pool of approximately $300,000. These funds have been intentionally set aside for budget managers to request as unavoidable expenditures materialize during the year such as an HVAC system failing. This is generally considered best practice to have this type of funding set aside. If this fund is not needed there is a process to allocate throughout the year. Requests will be assessed on a case by case basis and in accordance with the strategic plan.

In ‘other funds’ there is a difference between endowment and Foundation transfers although both are through the Friends Foundation. The difference is in purpose and intent. The endowment is held in perpetuity and only the interest can be used. How much we receive from the Foundation is based on market conditions. The Foundation transfers refer to transfers derived from private/corporate grants and donations that flow through the Friends Foundation. Most grants go through 2022 and generally run mid-year to mid-year.

A reduction to Neighborhood Services reflects donations from individual donors. They are recently restricted and once restrictions have been met the funds are released and are not necessarily recurring.

Lindberg also mentioned the unsustainability of special trust fund and that there is not sufficient fund balance to maintain programs. She noted it is all the more reason that pursuing sustainable funding is important.

Upon motion by Chong and second by Niyompong the 2022 budget was approved.

11. Approval of Update to 2022 DPL Holidays and Closures. Michelle Jeske

When approving the holidays for 2022 at the October meeting an early closure was accidentally omitted. The library typically closes at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve. In 2022 it falls on a Saturday when the library would normally close at 5 p.m. Upon motion by Mathews and second by Ulibarri the early closure was approved.


Riley talked about the Friends Foundation Holiday Lighting Party that was held last week. It was a great event and is always a nice opportunity for donors to connect with the Commission and Friends Foundation Board.

Colorado Gives Day yielded $134,000, which is a 30% increase from last year. Riley does not anticipate continuing to see growth at that rate but thinks we may not have hit the ceiling yet.

The Foundation has a redesigned website with a great new look and feel. They worked with an outside consultant on it.

Every couple of years as a part of their commitment to fiscal stewardship, the Foundation reviews who they select as an investment advisor. This year they have chosen to go with AllianceBernstein. The endowment is now quite consistently more than $10 million.

The Foundation is beginning an education campaign to assist with sustainable funding efforts. The Commission will receive a list of names and be asked to reach out to anyone they may have a connection with to get a short meeting. The idea is to deliver a message about the library, what they do, and why more funding is needed.

The Story Still to Tell campaign received an anonymous gift from a non-local foundation of $500,000. There is still a $7.5 million gap to fully fund the Central renovation project. June 30, 2022 is the new fundraising deadline.
Lastly, the Foundation has added three new board members: Lawson Parker with Greenberg Traurig, Stewart Tucker Lundy who advises the City of Denver on a number of issues including the Rise Denver bond, transportation, and accessibility for people with disabilities, and Joe Bochenek with Fox Rothschild.

13. Approval of Naming Map Collection. Jeff Riley
Riley brought forth that longtime library supporter and former Commissioner Wes Brown has plans to donate his significant map collection to Denver Public Library. Brown advises DPL on purchases it should make for its map collection and also serves on the collection advisory committee for the Library of Congress. Riley is seeking to name the collection Brown donates the Wes Brown Map Collection. There are no financial ramifications except the value this will add to our existing collection, which is unknown. However, this gift will enhance DPL’s position in the world as a holder of maps of the West.

Chong clarified that this is just naming the donated collection after Wes Brown and that there is no physical space tied to it. Riley confirmed that it would just be naming the collection Brown gives to DPL. Brown has noted he may intend to transfer some of his collection sooner than his death.

Upon motion by Lucas and second by Chong the request to name the donated collection the Wes Brown Map Collection was approved.

14. Other Business.
NA

15. Executive Session for City Librarian Performance Review.
President Lucas called the Commission into executive session at 10:15 a.m. 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.

The meeting was called back into public session and with no further business to discuss was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.
Agenda Item 4
Requested Action: Approval

The Denver Public Library Commission
Library Funding/Governance Sustainability Meeting
with Denver Public Library Friends Foundation Board
January 21, 2022, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Online
The meeting can be joined via this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89317537560
Or via telephone: 253 215 8782, Webinar ID: 844 5283 2952

Commission Attendees (7):
Laurie Mathews, Michael Niyompong, Sonya Ulibarri, Zi Chong, Cathy Lucas, Cedric Buchanon, and Jehan Benton-Clark

Staff & Guests:
Michelle Jeske, Laurie Troge, Lawson Parker, Lisa Vela, Mark Ferrandino, Susan Wilson, Donald Yale, Elizabeth Dauer, Emily King Marshall, Erika Martinez, Gay Cook, Jeff Riley, Jina Dunn, Joseph Bochenek, Judy Sarlo-Allender, Kim Seter, Alvaro Sauceda, Stephanie Pinales, Cody Belzley, Stewart Tucker Lundy, akash madiah, Alex Dunn, Amber Lindberg, Amy Brimah, Bob Sarlo, Brittany Morris Saunders, Jon Underkoffler, Josie Teodosijeva, Kathleen Carothers, Laura Rutsum Senturia, Lauren Seegmiller, Madison Hosack, Marshall Wallach, Megan Albee, Monica Peritt, Nadia Rendon, Nicole Capage-Brown, Bill Hunter, Christina Wootton, Consuelo Cosio, Dana Franklin, Danielle Brooks, Dodie Owens, Elissa Hardy, Elizabeth Warren, Gwyndolyn Davis, and Jen Allison

1. Call to Order
   Meeting was called to order at 11:36AM

2. Introductions.
   Commissioners and staff present introduced themselves.

3. Public Comment
   No public comment

4. Library Funding/Governance Sustainability Task Force Presentation and Discussion
   The consultant team of Cody Belzley and Lynea Hansen provided background on the formation of the Task Force and the research process.
   This summer, at the request of the Library Commission, the DPL Friends Foundation convened a community task force to assess whether DPL has the appropriate resources and governance model to effectively fulfill its mission and meet the demands of a growing, changing Denver. The task force met monthly through January for 2.5 hours each month focusing on four core areas:
   1. Developing a better understanding of DPL
   2. Learning about other libraries and other Denver organizations
   3. Conducting a two-part public opinion research project
   4. Reviewing finance and governance options
Task Force Members include: Cathy Alderman, Diane Barrett, Terrance Carroll, Gay Cook, Leah Curtsinger, Janet Damon, Mark Ferrandino, Jack Finlaw, Oliver Ginimaro, Rudy Gonzales, Jenny Santos, Hayden Hirschfeld, Michelle Jeske, Bobby LeFebre, Carlos Martinez, Laurie Mathews, Brittany Morris Saunders, Samantha Niemann, JJ Niemann, Susan Pearce, Jeff Riley, Laura Rizzo, Jin Tsuchiya, and Sonya Ulibarri

Data shared with the task force on DPL financing and governance:

Historical DPL general fund investment data showed that public investment is not keeping pace with the population growth and the demand for services. Public investment volatility makes it difficult for library leadership and the Commission to plan for and make strategic and sustained investments in the programs and services that the library seeks to carry forward.

Compared to neighboring suburban library systems, which do not maintain a research library, and peer cities like Seattle, DPL per capita investment is lagging. Other funding data shared included other signifiers of financial health of a library including funding per square foot and wait times for accessing materials. In all comparator categories, Denver does not compare favorably to local and peer cities.

The other key framing context point that was useful in shaping and informing the task force’s discussion about financing and governance was how DPL sits in the City and County of Denver’s governance structure. As an independent agency, DPL is neither fully a part of the City (e.g. not included as part of the Mayor’s cabinet) and also not really autonomous. That ambiguity has led to more restrictive practices that have hindered DPL’s ability to deliver on its mission. This impacts things like personnel policies, budgeting policies, and management of capital facilities.

One of the key steps in this process was to conduct in-depth interviews with seventeen Denver leaders. These in-depth interviews were designed to give us a sense of where Denver is as a community and what role DPL plays in Denver today as well as the role the library could play in Denver’s future. The consultants spoke to civic, elected, and volunteer community leaders. This included people from the business, education and cultural sectors. They were very intentional about recruiting a good mix of individuals from various racial and ethnic backgrounds to have these conversations.

Overall what they heard from the in-depth interviews was very encouraging and positive. It really helped to frame our understanding of how community leaders view the library, the future direction of the city, and what changes might be possible. Five key takeaways from from these interviews were:

1. There is a lack of understanding about what the library does and the impact of its works, but there's a good foundation to work from
2. Central Library and branches are viewed differently
3. Right track/wrong track and top challenges: Concerns about Denver as a whole are present and consistent
4. DPL’s role to play in addressing the challenges? Mixed responses
5. No clear consensus about governance and financing questions that were asked

One of the key values of doing these in-depth interviews early in the process
Agenda Item 4
Requested Action: Approval

has really allowed for the team to form and shape the second phase of public opinion research.

Alex Dunn of Strategies 360 presented on public polling results. Strategies 360 is a company that does everything from public opinion research to strategic communications. They have worked with libraries, school districts, fire districts, and various types of agencies seeking revenue increases across the Front Range. Working with the Friends Foundation and DPL staff they conducted a poll of likely November 2022 voters.

Poll Quick Facts
- Poll conducted October 12 - 17, 2021 on behalf of the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation
- 594 interviews (conducted on landlines, mobile phones and online)
- This was a baseline assessment of Denver voters’ attitudes toward (and priorities for) Denver Public Library.

Key Findings
- Voters give Denver’s public libraries a clear vote of confidence: two thirds report satisfaction with the quality of their public libraries.
- While most voters lack a robust understanding of DPL’s challenges, more than six in ten believe Denver’s public libraries need more funding.
- A strong majority of Denverites express their preference for a more expansive vision for DPL—even if it impacts their tax burden.
- Thus, when it comes to evaluating rough drafts of potential funding solutions, we see encouraging support levels for an increase in the sales or property tax.
- Voters connected most closely with the following funding priorities, demonstrating their commitment to the comprehensive vision of DPL that reinforces equity in Denver communities:
  - Increasing pay for librarians and staff making below market wages
  - Improving programs and services for communities of color and vulnerable groups like immigrants and refugees
  - Ensuring the library has the necessary technology to support patrons who lack internet access
- This vision aligns closely with DPL’s new strategic direction, as well as its core base of patrons

Kim Seter of Seter & Vander Wall gave an overview of the governance models presented to the task force and their recommendations. The task force reviewed various governance models including the library’s current position within the City and County of Denver. DPL is bound by Denver Municipal Code § 11.1.2 - General powers. As an independent agency, DPL is in competition with all other independent agencies and subject to the shifting priorities of the City.

*Denver Municipal Code § 11.1.2 - General powers
The commission shall have exclusive control of the public library, branches*
Agenda Item 4  
Requested Action: Approval

thereof and reading rooms, of all money appropriated therefor, of all property or money otherwise acquired for such purposes, of the acquisition by purchase, construction, or lease, of grounds and buildings for such purposes; of the administration of gifts and trusts, and power to do any and all things necessary or expedient in connection with library purposes.

Governance Options Task Force explored:

- Stay Same
  - Do nothing and remain an independent agency of the City and County of Denver governed by a Library Commission appointed by the Mayor.

- City w/MOU
  - Remain an independent agency of the City and County of Denver but develop an intergovernmental agreement regarding funding and operations to address concerns.

- Library District
  - Form an independent government entity called Public Library District under Section 24-90-107 of the Colorado Revised Statutes. Requires a property tax passed by the voters.

Revenue options discussed with the task force: Bare Bones with General Fund (GF), Bare Bones with no GF, Good Budget, and Better Budget.

In December, after reviewing options and learning about DPL over the last three months, the task force was asked to determine the best next steps for the library moving forward. Cody noted how impressed the consultant team was with the thoughtful work and consideration of the task force as civic leaders in their communities and part of the public. The team spent two meetings coming to agreement on a set of recommendations and reached consensus on the following recommendations:

Task Force Recommendations:

- **Increase Public Investment:** Grow DPL operating budget from $54 million (2022 budget number) to a total budget of approximately $75 million, inclusive of General Fund and any new dedicated tax revenue.

- **Provide for Budget Stability & Growth through a Dedicated Tax:** Ask for voter approval of a new, dedicated tax to diversity DPL’s revenue sources and grow the budget.

- **Clarify Governance & Strengthen Autonomy:** Solve governance challenges that hinder the success of DPL in fulfilling its mission and serving the people of Denver, ideally through the establishment of an independent library district or by clarifying and strengthening policies and practices with the City.

For more insight into the discussions and rationale, the consultant team created this five page memo reviewing each of these recommendations - attached
Next Steps & Timeline

- Education campaign to elevate and increase awareness of DPL’s impact in the community
  - House Chats
  - Civic Organization Presentations
  - Learning Sessions
  - Brand Stories
  - Social Media Advocates
  - Additional Community Input
- Pending approval, begin conversations with the City

Important Date: Last state to put anything on the ballot via City Council is September 2nd (Last City Council Meeting before that date: August 29th). Council proceedings will likely take 10 weeks so need to be started with Council mid-June.

Library Commission and DPLF Friends Foundation Board Questions:

- Would ownership of buildings and facilities still stay with the City or would that go to the library district? If buildings remain with the City, who would be responsible for maintenance?
  - This is a detail to be worked out with the City through an intergovernmental agreement once go-ahead given by the Commission. Other districts lease buildings from their City for one dollar per year and eventually end up owning buildings as an independent district.
- Would it be possible to fund the library district through a hybrid of sales tax and property tax or does it have to be one or the other?
  - This is possible but would be challenging as the only entity that can go after sales tax would be the City through a ballot measure. Funding would then go directly to the City and they would distribute to the library district or the library if it were to remain a City agency.
- When you were doing your research, did you specifically poll individuals with disabilities?
  - One of the members recruited for the task force was due to their experiences and is on the City’s Disability Commission. When it comes to polling we don’t know for sure as we did not ask about disability status. We prioritized questions to focus on the library and did not collect demographic information.

Comments and Kudos:

Sonya Ulibarri, Laurie Mathews, and Brittany Morris Saunders hailed the task force for their remarkable consensus in bringing forward recommendations and the level of representation in the group.

Cathy Lucas thanked the task force, Laurie, Lynea, and Michelle for heavy lifting in this very important process.
Agenda Item 4  
Requested Action: Approval

5. **Adjournment of Joint Meeting**  
Meeting adjourned at 12:40pm

6. **Library Commission Discussion of Task Force Report and Recommendations**  

Library Commission Discussion called to order at 12:42pm.

**Commission Attendees (7):**  
Laurie Mathews, Michael Niyompong, Sonya Ulibarri, Zi Chong, Cathy Lucas, Cedric Buchanon, and Jehan Benton-Clark

**Staff & Guests:** Lynea Hansen, Kim Seter, Michelle Jeske, and Ada Lucas

Formally welcomed Cedric Buchanon to the Library Commission then Commissioners engaged in a discussion on the task force’s recommendation to proceed with the formation of a library district. Ulibarri highlighted a few arguments for moving forward including increasing efficiency in the governing structure, the ability to be responsive to shifting community needs through revenue and diversified funding, the volatility of the current fiscal system, and the need to resource DPL’s equity value in order to properly center equity. Lucas echoed Sonya calling out community and equity. Mathews and Jeske listed a few of the limitations of DPL’s current status such as being bound to the City’s employee pay structure and budget cycle which has DPL returning any funds not spent by December 31st that could be reinvested into programs or long term planning.

Lucas made a motion to move the sustainable funding effort forward: Based on the sustainable funding task force report, the Library Commission directs staff to build upon the work and recommendations outlined in the report by working with Mayor Hancock’s administration and City Council to advance the cause of the library by addressing funding, equity and governance challenges which exist with the current structure. The Commission strongly recommends pursuing a library district funded through a mix of dedicated property tax and continued City funding.

Upon motion by Lucas and second by Mathews the motion passes with all Commissioners in favor.

7. **Other Business**  
None

8. **Adjournment of Commission Meeting**  
Meeting adjourned at 1:10pm.
Denver Public Library
Sustainable Funding Task Force

Joint Commission & Friends Board Briefing
January 21, 2022
Your Consultants

General Consultants
- Cody Belzley
- Lynea Hansen

Legal Team
- Seter & Vander Wall
  - Kim Seter
  - Beth Dauer

Research Team
- Strategies 360
  - Alex Dunn
Some History
Over the last 130+ years, together, in partnership with the City and County of Denver, the library has played an integral role in supporting the City’s priorities. Currently, the library is:

• Closing the opportunity gap through our children’s services, programming, and literacy initiatives
• Providing services for entrepreneurs, job skills training and support for those looking for employment
• Expanding access to resources and materials that enable life-long learning and enriching experiences
• Expanding opportunities for immigrants and refugees
• Creating a better quality of life for the library’s neighbors through building connections
• Supporting community members experiencing homelessness and other life challenges

The library recently completed a strategic planning process to support Denver’s dynamic community. Equity is an important and necessary part of the agenda for this City and it is a key part of the library’s core values. As one of the few places in the city where all people, from all walks of life are welcome to come free of charge, the library is a vital community resource.
Community Task Force

• This summer, at the request of the Library Commission, the DPL Friends Foundation convened a community task force to assess whether DPL has the appropriate resources and governance model to effectively fulfill this new mission and meet the demands of a growing, changing Denver.

• The Task Force consists of 22 diverse members representing all parts of Denver.
  – Cathy Alderman ~ Diane Barrett ~ Terrance Carroll ~ Gay Cook ~ Leah Curtsinger ~ Janet Damon ~ Mark Ferrandino ~ Jack Finlaw ~ Oliver Ginimaro ~ Rudy Gonzales & Jenny Santos ~ Hayden Hirschfeld ~ Michelle Jeske ~ Bobby LeFebre ~ Carlos Martinez ~ Laurie Mathews ~ Brittany Morris Saunders ~ Samantha & JJ Niemann ~ Susan Pearce ~ Jeff Riley ~ Laura Rizzo ~ Jin Tsuchiya ~ Sonya Ulibarri
  – The Task Force met monthly September thru January for 2.5 hours each month
Task Force Meetings

• Developed a better understanding of DPL
  – Because the Task Force is a diverse group with varying levels of engagement with DPL we did a deep dive into mission, programs, operations, budget, governance and strategic plan in order to orient the Task Force to the Library.

• Learned about other libraries and other Denver Agencies & Programs
  – We developed and shared case studies of 10 organizations relevant to the DPL with focus on understanding their approach to financing and governance. We also hosted a panel discussion with library leaders from Anythink Libraries, Pikes Peak Library District and Seattle Public Library to discuss pros and cons of various financing and governance structures.

• Conducted a two-part public opinion research project
  – We conducted in-depth interviews with 17 of Denver’s “grasstops” community leaders and synthesized key themes to understand the community’s perception of community priorities and the role of DPL. Strategies 360 to conduct a poll of 594 likely Denver voters between October 12 & 17, 2021. This was NOT a campaign poll, but a baseline poll designed to help us better understand voter opinions about DPL and their priorities for future investment.

• Reviewed Revenue & Governance Options
DPL Financing: Past Public Investment

DPL General Fund Budget Over Time

DPL General Fund Budget Change

DPL % of City General Fund Budget
## Comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Revenue Per Capita</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Denver 2020 Budget</strong></td>
<td>$50.4M</td>
<td>729,239</td>
<td>$66</td>
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<td><strong>Pueblo District 2020</strong></td>
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<td>351,528</td>
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<td></td>
<td>761,100</td>
<td>$102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arapahoe District 2020</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>270,550</td>
<td>$153</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Library Governance Challenges
Research Findings - IDIs

In-Depth Interviews - 5 key headlines

• There is a lack of understanding about what the library does and the impact of its work, but good foundation to work from
• Central Library and branches are viewed differently
• Right track / wrong track & top challenges: Concerns about Denver are present & consistent
• DPL’s role to play in addressing top challenges? Mixed responses
• No clear consensus about governance and financing questions we asked
Research Findings - Poll

• Poll conducted October 12-17, 2021 on behalf of The Denver Public Library Friends Foundation

• 594 interviews (conducted on landlines, mobile phones and online)

• Disclaimer: at this early stage, we did not conduct a campaign poll looking at viability of specific proposals but, rather, a baseline assessment of Denver voters’ attitudes toward (and priorities for) Denver Public Library.
Research Findings - Poll

Key Findings

• Voters give Denver’s public libraries a clear vote of confidence: two thirds report satisfaction with the quality of their public libraries.

• While most voters lack a robust understanding of DPL’s funding challenges, more than six in ten believe Denver’s public libraries need more funding.

• A strong majority of Denverites express their preference for a more expansive vision for DPL—even if it impacts their tax burden...

“I want Denver's public libraries to offer robust traditional services like books and media, as well as offering high-quality programs for children, youth, low-income families, and seniors, even if there's a higher cost to taxpayers.”
Research Findings - Poll

Key Findings (continued)

• Thus, when it comes to evaluating rough drafts of potential funding solutions, we see encouraging support levels for an increase in the sales or property tax.

• Voters connected most closely with the following funding priorities, demonstrating their commitment to a comprehensive vision of DPL that reinforces equity in Denver communities:
  
a. Increasing pay for librarians and staff making below-market wages
  
b. Improving programs and services for communities of color and vulnerable groups like immigrants and refugees
  
c. Ensuring the library has the necessary technology to support patrons who lack internet access

• This vision aligns closely with DPL’s new strategic direction, as well as its core base of patrons.
Governance


The commission shall have exclusive control of the public library, branches thereof and reading rooms, of all money appropriated therefor, of all property or money otherwise acquired for such purposes, of the acquisition by purchase, construction, or lease, of grounds and buildings for such purposes; of the administration of gifts and trusts, and power to do any and all things necessary or expedient in connection with library purposes.
# Governance Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stay Same</strong></td>
<td>• Do nothing and remain an independent agency of the City and County of Denver governed by a Library Commission appointed by the Mayor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>City w/ MOU</strong></td>
<td>• Remain an independent agency of the City and County of Denver but develop an intra-governmental agreement regarding funding and operations to address concerns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Library District</strong></td>
<td>• Form an independent government entity called a Public Library District under Section 24-90-107 of the Colorado Revised Statutes. Requires a property tax passed by the voters.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Revenue Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>New $</th>
<th>Property Tax Cost</th>
<th>Sales Tax Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bare Bones w/ GF</td>
<td>$6.1M</td>
<td>.29 Mills</td>
<td>.038% 4 cents on a $100 purchase</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Avg Home $9.70 Annually</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bare Bones No GF</td>
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<td>2.88 Mills</td>
<td>.379% 38 cents on a $100 purchase</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Avg Home $96.51 Annually</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good Budget</td>
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<td>3.23 Mills</td>
<td>.426% 43 cents on a $100 purchase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Avg Home $108.43 Annually</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better Budget</td>
<td>$73.3M</td>
<td>3.48 Mills</td>
<td>.458% 46 cents on a $100 purchase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Avg Home $116.54 Annually</td>
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</table>
## How Would We Compare?

<table>
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</table>
Then we stopped talking and started listening!
Task Force Recommendations

• **Increase Public Investment:** Grow DPL operating budget from $54 million (2022 budget number) to a total budget of approx. $75 million, inclusive of general fund and any new dedicated tax revenue.

• **Provide for Budget Stability & Growth through a Dedicated Tax:** Ask for voter approval of a new, dedicated tax to diversify DPL’s revenue sources and grow the budget.

• **Clarify Governance & Strengthen Autonomy:** Solve governance challenges that hinder the success of DPL in fulfilling its mission and serving the people of Denver, ideally through the establishment of an independent library district or by clarifying and strengthening policies and practices with the City.
Next Steps & Timeline

• Education campaign to elevate and increase awareness of DPL’s impact in the community.
  – House Chats
  – Civic Organization Presentations
  – Learning Sessions
  – Brand Stories
  – Social Media Advocates
  – Additional Community Input

• Pending approval, begin conversations with the City

Important Date: Last date to put anything on the ballot via City Council is September 2\textsuperscript{nd}
(Last Council Meeting before that date August 29\textsuperscript{th}) Council process will likely take 10 weeks so
need to be started through Council mid-June
Questions?
Comments?
Executive Summary & Recommendations

• Since 1889, the Denver Public Library (DPL) has been a cornerstone of the Denver community, playing an integral role in supporting the City’s priorities. However, funding and governance challenges have long impacted DPL’s ability to fully realize its potential. In the fall of 2021, Denver Public Library Friends Foundation convened a community task force consisting of a diverse group of people to assess the financial resources and governance model needed for the Denver Public Library to meet the demands of a changing Denver.

• The Task Force undertook an extensive process of listening and learning to understand DPL’s strengths and challenges today, to study financing and governance structures of similar public entities and to research Denver residents’ interest in and support for the Library. They then pivoted to discussing and discerning various financing and governance options in order to develop a set of recommendations to stabilize and strengthen the Denver Public Library.

• Their recommendations are as follows:
  o **Increase Public Investment:** Grow DPL operating budget from $54 million (2022 budget number) to a total budget of approximately $75 million, inclusive of general fund and any new dedicated tax revenue.

  o **Provide for Budget Stability & Growth through a Dedicated Tax:** Ask for voter approval of a new, dedicated tax to diversify DPL’s revenue sources and grow the budget.

  o **Clarify Governance & Strengthen Autonomy:** Solve governance challenges that hinder the success of DPL in fulfilling its mission and serving the people of Denver, ideally through the establishment of an independent library district or by clarifying and strengthening policies and practices with the City.

• The Task Force came to consensus on these recommendations, with all 22 members endorsing this path forward.

• The Task Force urges the Library Commission and Denver’s elected leaders to act on these recommendations in the coming year: refine them, strengthen them and, ultimately, ask voters to approve them.

Project Overview & Approach

Since 1889, the Denver Public Library (DPL) has been a cornerstone of the Denver community, playing an integral role in supporting the City’s priorities. The library has 26 locations distributed in neighborhoods throughout the City, provides programs and services to every demographic, and is Denver’s most visited cultural institution with over 4 million in-person visits in 2019.

DPL recently completed a strategic planning process to refresh its vision and mission and establish a bold plan for how to best support Denver’s dynamic community. Equity is an important and necessary part of the
agenda for the City and County of Denver and it is a key part of the library’s core values. As one of the few places in the city where all people, from all backgrounds and life circumstances are welcome to come free of charge, the library is a vital community resource and an important part of how we can create and grow opportunity for all Denver residents.

However, DPL does not have the financial resources or governance flexibility needed to fully realize this vision. As compared to other libraries in Colorado and across the country, DPL is underfunded. Additionally, as an independent agency of the City – neither fully a part of the City, nor fully independent – DPL is facing a unique set of governance challenges that hinder its ability to deliver on its mission. This fall, **DPL Friends Foundation convened a community task force to assess the financial resources and governance model DPL needs to fulfill this new mission and meet the demands of a changing Denver.**

The Team:  
*The Task Force* consisted of 22 diverse members, representing all parts of Denver, various sectors and stakeholder groups. A complete list of members is provided at the end of this memo.

*The Consulting Team* consisted of two Denver-based professionals who bring decades of experience and expertise in public sector work, policy research and analysis, and politics in Colorado: **Lynea Hansen, Hansen Communications** and **Cody Belzley, Common Good Consulting, LLC**.

*The Research Team* was led by Alex Dunn, Research Director at **Strategies 360**, a full-service research firm serving private and public sector clients throughout the Western United States.

The Work:  
The Task Force met monthly for two and a half hours each month between September 2021 and January 2022. Their work included:

- **Developing a Better Understanding of DPL:** In-depth exploration of the mission, programs, operations, budget, governance and strategic plan in order to better understand the Library today.

- **Learning About Other Libraries & Other Denver Agencies and Programs:** Reviewing case studies of 10 relevant organizations and hosting a panel discussion with leaders from Anythink Libraries, Pikes Peak Library District and Seattle Public Library to discuss various financing and governance structures.

- **Conducting a Two-Part Public Opinion Research Project:** Reviewing results of in-depth interviews with 17 of Denver’s community leaders and contracting with Strategies 360 to conduct a poll of 594 likely Denver voters from October 12 to 17, 2021. This was *not* a campaign poll, but a baseline poll designed to better understand voter opinions about and priorities for future investment in DPL.

**Recommendations & Rationale**

After spending months listening and learning, the Task Force engaged in a discussion and discernment process that resulted in the following recommendations. It is notable that these recommendations reflect the *consensus position of this diverse Task Force, with all 22 members endorsing all three recommendations.*

1. **Increase Public Investment:** Grow DPL operating budget from $54 million (2022 budget number) to a total budget of approximately $75 million, inclusive of general fund and any new dedicated tax revenue.

Current investment in DPL does not compare favorably to investment in other Colorado libraries or libraries of peer cities. Analysis of investment per capita, investment per square foot of physical space and wait time for
accessing materials shows Denver lagging regional and national peer libraries. Additionally, DPL’s budget over the last 20 years has not kept pace relative to Denver’s population growth. As a result, DPL is not able to provide the level of service (locations, hours, collections, outreach programs) that Denver residents need or deserve. The Task Force concluded that a world class city needs world class resources, and a robust library system is key to creating opportunity for residents, nurturing civic health and supporting a successful city.

The Task Force analyzed budget scenarios for the DPL ranging from about $61 million to $75 million (assuming the current $54 million of City General Fund, plus a new, dedicated funding stream). They determined that with a total budget at the higher end of that range, approximately $75 million, DPL could:

- **Improve Quality:** Restore and increase hours to include more nights and weekends; provide clean and well-maintained buildings and properties; and provide modern technology online and in-library to improve customer experience.

- **Expand and Innovate:** Expand collections to reduce wait times by up to half and offer more diverse resources; establish new locations and satellites through partnerships with community hub locations and expand mobile services.

- **Invest in Equity & Cultural Competence:** Increase staff wages and invest in diverse, multi-lingual staff; expand outreach and programming to reach communities of greatest need particularly to black, indigenous, people of color (BIPOC) communities, vulnerable youth, older adults, immigrants, and job seekers; accelerate digital preservation of special collections to honor the rich history of Denver, especially the history of BIPOC communities.

- **Assume More Independence:** Take on some additional expense and improved efficiency associated with greater independence achieved through a Library District; note that the details of this will need to be refined depending on the outcome of governance decisions.

If this recommendation moves forward, more work will be required to refine the proposed budget.

**(2) Provide for Budget Stability & Growth through a Dedicated Tax:** Ask for voter approval of a new, dedicated tax to diversify DPL’s revenue sources and grow the budget.

Currently, DPL is almost entirely dependent on the City of Denver’s General Fund, allocated through the annual budget process. This results in significant volatility in DPL’s budget, making it difficult to sustain programming year-to-year and plan for the future. Protected funding through a new and dedicated tax would diversify DPL funding and provide stability that would enable DPL to be more strategic and impactful in both the short and long term.

When evaluating potential funding sources, the Task Force considered both sales and property tax options. Understanding that political viability must be accounted for before a final decision is made, the Task Force generally favored a property tax over sales tax increase for the following reasons:

- Property taxes are more stable, reliable, and offer greater capacity to generate more funding at a lower increment increase;

- DPL serves key functions and offers programming that supports the educational, professional and personal growth of Denver residents and as such, it is logical that those services should be paid for by Denver residents;
• Denver has some of the lowest residential property tax rates in the country, whereas Denver voters have increased sales taxes significantly over past 10 years; and

• Property tax is required element of a Library District, so if governance changes are made through a Library District, either now or in the future, a property tax component would be necessary.

However, the Task Force also acknowledges that commercial property tax rates in Colorado are quite high and that further increase could be detrimental to Denver businesses. **Dialogue with the business community on this point will be necessary as the details of this recommendation are further evaluated.**

The general sentiment among Task Force members is that this **new, dedicated revenue should supplement, not supplant, current City investments in DPL.** There were a number of reasons given for this, including but not limited to a belief that ongoing financial ties will help ensure a continued working relationship between the City and Library, which is beneficial to both entities. Further, the Task Force acknowledged concern about the perception of Denver voters being taxed twice for Library services. There should be some safeguards put in place to ensure that this new funding source does not result in the City substantially diverting current General Fund investment in DPL to other City programs and services. The Task Force identified the maintenance of effort provision in the 2018 sales tax for Parks and Recreation ordinance as a potential model for such a safeguard.

**(3) Clarify Governance & Strengthen Autonomy:** *Solve governance challenges that hinder the success of DPL in fulfilling its mission and serving the people of Denver, ideally through the establishment of an independent library district or by clarifying and strengthening policies and practices with the City.*

DPL is a unique entity on the City’s organizational chart. Called an “independent agency,” the Library is neither fully embedded within the City and included as a part of the Mayor’s cabinet (as agencies such as Human Services or Parks and Recreation are), nor is it fully autonomous. While it is categorized with entities such as Denver Water and Denver Zoo, these organizations are fundamentally different from DPL in mission, financing and governance.

Further, the City Charter provides the Library Commission with unique powers and authority as compared to other City agencies related to management of appropriations and operations. However, a lack of specificity in the Charter and other legal documents has led the City to impose standard practices to Library operations, which hinder the ability of the Library to deliver on its mission. The challenges include but are not limited to:

- **Personnel:** DPL manages an independent personnel system, separate and apart from the City’s Office of Human Resources. However, in practice, the City has required DPL to comply with its classification and compensation structure. This is negatively impacting DPL’s ability to attract and retain qualified staff in a timely way. Additionally, the City of Denver annually retains three percent of DPL’s personnel budget in anticipation of attrition or vacancy savings, again limiting DPL’s ability to address staffing needs in a timely and equitable way, despite the Charter giving the Library Commission “exclusive control...of all money appropriated.”

- **Budgeting:** Despite the fact that the Charter gives the Library Commission control over its budget, in practice, DPL is required to seek and secure Budget Management Office approval before shifting resources between budget categories (e.g. personnel, supplies & services, capital). This can be a slow process, negatively affecting DPL’s ability to respond to customer and community needs in a timely and responsive
manner. Additionally, the “use it or lose it” budget practice prohibits the Library from setting aside resources for long-term priorities or initiatives.

- **Facilities and Capital Needs**: DPL has extensive capital funding and maintenance needs and must compete with other City agencies for limited funding. When preventive maintenance requests go unfunded, they can turn into deferred maintenance and ultimately unfunded maintenance, which can lead to building closures, limiting customer access and service. Without flexibility and autonomy to allocate budget to capital needs, DPL is limited in its ability to appropriately manage its physical assets.

Recognizing the unique nature of libraries, Colorado state law specifically enables libraries to function as library districts, distinct from the municipal or county government that they serve. (See CRS 24-90-101) Currently, there are 56 library districts operating in all types of Colorado communities, including many of Denver’s neighbors, and more are forming. By establishing a library district, DPL would set its own best practice policies and procedures regarding financing and management practices related to budget and personnel.

With a library district, an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) is established between the district and the local governments with which it partners and services to determine the working and financial relationship between the two entities. The details of that IGA are of critical importance and **without knowing how the working relationship with the City would be established through the IGA, it was impossible for the Task Force to fully evaluate that approach.** However, the Task Force explored potential pros and cons and determined that **there is enough promise in the idea of DPL operating as an independent library district for the Task Force to recommend its continued exploration by Library and City leaders.**

If, after meaningful consideration by DPL and municipal leaders, it is determined that a library district is not feasible or viable at this time, City and DPL leaders should, at a minimum, work together to clarify, in writing, the authority of the Library Commission to address the above and additional identified issues.

**Next Steps: Urgency For Action**

While this concludes the formal charge to the Task Force, the work is not over. **Action is needed to stabilize and strengthen the Denver Public Library – and now is the time for that action.** The Task Force urges the Library Commission and Denver’s elected leaders to **act on these recommendations in the coming year: refine them, strengthen them and, ultimately, ask voters to approve them.**

The City is at a critical inflection point: how do we respond to the opportunities and challenges resulting from two decades of sustained growth and change? As we position Denver for recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, wrestle with inequities and social division and prepare for leadership changes at City Hall, we have a historic opportunity to stabilize and strengthen a key civic institution. A strong community requires a strong library. The Denver Public Library is an asset that demands our attention and deserves our support.

**Active Members of the DPL Governance and Financing Sustainability Task Force**

- Cathy Alderman
- Diane Barrett
• Terrance Carroll
• Gay Cook
• Leah Curtsinger
• Janet Damon
• Mark Ferrandino
• Jack Finlaw
• Oliver Ginimaro
• Hayden Hirschfeld
• Michelle Jeske
• Carlos Martinez
• Laurie Mathews
• Brittany Morris Saunders
• Samantha & JJ Niemann
• Susan Pearce
• Jeff Riley
• Laura Rizzo
• Jenny Santos
• Jin Tsuchiya
• Sonya Ulibarri
Agenda Item 9  
Requested Action: Receive Report

DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Q4 2021 Financial Report

This report includes unaudited financial statements for the Denver Public Library (DPL) year-to-date activity as of December 31, 2021. The purpose of these statements is to inform the Library Commission of DPL’s financial activities and to demonstrate compliance with the 2021 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 2021 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 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.

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 and 2021. In-person services were halted while downloading collection materials, standing up virtual programming and telephone services, and focused community outreach intensified. As of the date of this report, all 25 branches are open for in-person services as is part of the first floor of Central Library; curbside services also continue as a service option for customers. A 26th branch at the River North Art Park is scheduled for opening early 2022. The current state of the pandemic continues to cause uncertainty in staffing levels, supply chains and operating in a new normal. We continue to closely monitor the budget and adjust operations to accommodate these challenges.

2021 Financial Reports
The first financial report is a summary of the 2021 actual activity for all library funds including revenue sources and expenditures by operational division.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Special Trust Fund</th>
<th>Grant Funds</th>
<th>Total Library Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution from City and County of Denver</td>
<td>$ 45,476,135</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$ 45,476,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends Foundation Transfers</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,171,931</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,171,931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>1,074</td>
<td>217,704</td>
<td>522,573</td>
<td>741,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Distribution</td>
<td></td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational Activity</td>
<td></td>
<td>202,684</td>
<td></td>
<td>202,684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>45,477,210</td>
<td>1,892,319</td>
<td>522,573</td>
<td>47,892,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditures</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Services</td>
<td>16,820,876</td>
<td>779,322</td>
<td>28,097</td>
<td>17,628,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection, Technology &amp; Strategy</td>
<td>11,614,418</td>
<td>147,471</td>
<td>155,280</td>
<td>11,917,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Library</td>
<td>7,052,323</td>
<td>255,546</td>
<td>71,809</td>
<td>7,379,678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance, Facilities &amp; Security</td>
<td>5,487,211</td>
<td>27,038</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,514,249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>2,060,222</td>
<td>(62,119)</td>
<td>336,157</td>
<td>2,334,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication &amp; Community Engagement</td>
<td>1,422,512</td>
<td>12,926</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,435,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td>1,018,574</td>
<td>11,389</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,029,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>45,476,135</td>
<td>1,171,573</td>
<td>591,343</td>
<td>47,239,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Fund Balance</strong></td>
<td>1,074</td>
<td>720,746</td>
<td>(68,770)</td>
<td>653,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Balance, Beginning</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,677,761</td>
<td>15,881</td>
<td>1,693,642</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The next financial report displays the 2021 budget and actual activity for the General Fund only. Revenues and expenditures are shown by type for the library as a whole, and the 2021 Revised Budget is shown alongside the Original Budget for comparative purposes. Additional details are provided in the Notes section below.

| Fund Balance, Ending | $ 1,074 | $ 2,398,507 | $(52,889) | $ 2,346,692 |

Denver Public Library
Budget to Actual Variance - General Fund
For the period ending December 31, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Original</th>
<th>Revised</th>
<th>2021 Actual</th>
<th>$ Remain</th>
<th>% Variance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Distribution from City and County of Denver</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Personnel                                           | $ 38,264,394| $ 38,109,869| $ 36,119,729| $(1,990,140)| -5.2%  
| Supplies and Services                               | 9,919,425   | 9,419,187  | 9,201,644   | (217,543) | -2.3%  
| Capital                                             | 154,763     | 154,763    | (0)         |           | 0.0%      |
| Other                                               | 1,074       | 1,074      | 0%          |           |
| **Total Revenue**                                   | **48,183,819**| **47,683,819**| **45,477,210**| **(2,206,609)**| **-4.6%** |

| Expenditures                                        |             |            |             |           |            |
| Personnel                                           |             |            |             |           |            |
| Salaries                                            | 26,664,729  | 26,664,729 | 25,439,251  | 1,225,478 | 4.6%      |
| Benefits                                            | 11,599,665  | 11,445,140 | 10,680,478  | 764,662   | 6.7%      |
| Supplies and Services                               |             |            |             |           |            |
| Books and Education Materials                        | 5,712,562   | 5,818,162  | 5,788,182   | 29,980    | 0.5%    
| Maintenance Agreements                              | 1,484,118   | 1,166,039  | 1,173,046   | (7,007)  | -0.6%    |
| Professional Services                               | 1,069,961   | 760,811    | 538,661     | 222,150   | 29.2%    |
| Repair, Maintenance and Construction                | 311,282     | 446,407    | 617,541     | (171,134) | -38.3%   |
| Utilities                                           | 271,411     | 271,411    | 280,476     | (9,065)   | -3.3%    |
| Operational Supplies and Materials                  | 273,770     | 269,600    | 154,821     | 114,779   | 42.6%    |
This final financial report contains the 2021 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, 2021*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2021 Budget</th>
<th>2021 Actual</th>
<th>$ Variance</th>
<th>% Variance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Original</td>
<td>Revised</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational Activity</td>
<td>$ 195,000</td>
<td>$ 195,000</td>
<td>$ 202,684</td>
<td>$ 7,684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Distribution</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPL Friends Foundation Transfers</td>
<td>834,554</td>
<td>834,554</td>
<td>1,171,931</td>
<td>337,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Revenue</td>
<td>427,983</td>
<td>427,983</td>
<td>522,573</td>
<td>94,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>66,000</td>
<td>66,000</td>
<td>217,704</td>
<td>151,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>1,723,537</td>
<td>1,723,537</td>
<td>2,414,892</td>
<td>691,355</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                                |            |             |            |            |
| **Expenditures**               |            |             |            |            |
| **Special Trust Fund**         |            |             |            |            |
| Restricted                     |            |             |            |            |
| Administration                 | 0          | 0           | 0          | 0          | 0%          |
| Neighborhood Services          | 654,637    | 787,992     | 681,439    | 106,553    | 13.5%       |
| Central Library Administration | 163,214    | 168,214     | 238,263    | (70,049)   | -41.6%      |
| Collection, Technology & Strategy | 10,292   | 12,646      | 12,646     | 0          | 0.0%        |

**Total Expenditures**  
$ 48,183,819  
$ 47,683,819  
$ 45,476,135  
$ 2,207,684  
4.6%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication &amp; Community Engagement</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection, Technology &amp; Strategy</td>
<td>151,468</td>
<td>212,450</td>
<td>134,825</td>
<td>77,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Services</td>
<td>44,100</td>
<td>137,987</td>
<td>97,883</td>
<td>40,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Library</td>
<td>215,900</td>
<td>236,900</td>
<td>17,283</td>
<td>219,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td>11,389</td>
<td>20,611</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication &amp; Community Engagement</td>
<td>70,989</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>12,926</td>
<td>3,074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>1,126</td>
<td>9,874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance, Facilities &amp; Security</td>
<td>64,000</td>
<td>64,000</td>
<td>27,038</td>
<td>36,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undesignated</td>
<td>214,400</td>
<td>18,761</td>
<td>(63,245)</td>
<td>82,006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures</td>
<td>1,607,200</td>
<td>1,708,150</td>
<td>1,171,573</td>
<td>536,577</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grant Funds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Fund</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institute for Museums and Library</td>
<td>418,791</td>
<td>86,916</td>
<td>331,875</td>
<td>79.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Grant for Libraries</td>
<td>381,862</td>
<td>155,280</td>
<td>226,582</td>
<td>59.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temple Hoyne Buell</td>
<td>28,097</td>
<td>28,097</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Recovery Plan Act</td>
<td>795,697</td>
<td>321,050</td>
<td>474,647</td>
<td>59.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,624,447</td>
<td>591,343</td>
<td>1,033,104</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expenditures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institute for Museums and Library Services</td>
<td>$1,607,200</td>
<td>$3,332,597</td>
<td>$1,762,916</td>
<td>$1,569,681</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes**

As indicated above, the pandemic forced the library to modify our services due to evolving public health protocols and unforeseen economic challenges during the year. A budget reserve was established early in the year then reallocated strategically across multiple departments in the second quarter. An additional reallocation was made when American Recovery Plan Act funding was received in the third quarter. We consider these to be extraordinary circumstances for 2021 and not representative of normal operations for the library. Additional details of importance are referenced on the above financial statements and explained in notes below.

**General Fund**
1. Budgeted revenue for Personnel was adjusted throughout the year as part of our pandemic recovery efforts. Staff working on site during the pandemic in 2020 and also those who met the City’s vaccine requirements were compensated for their efforts in COVID recovery. These bonuses were initially paid from our personnel budget, then reimbursed in November from American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) dollars. Also in the fourth quarter, over $900,000 was replaced in our General Fund budget after previously being set aside for 2021 furlough days. Due to global challenges in recruitment and the timing of these reimbursements, we were unable to fully spend them in the fiscal year resulting in unspent budget being returned to the City’s General Fund. Without these late reimbursements, personnel spending for 2021 would have been nearly 99% of our budget.

2. Supplies and Services budget was reduced by $500,000 intended for ADA improvements to our facilities. These funds were placed into a separate nonlapsing fund for use on future ADA projects in conjunction with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, which manages several of our construction projects.

3. In an effort to optimize spending of General Fund budget, managers identified budget they would not be able to spend this year and $173,000 was reallocated to the Collection Services department for electronic collection materials. This reallocation is aligned with our strategic budgeting process and helps further objectives in Access & Enrichment.

4. As of the date of this report, we are still completing “closing” 2021 financial records which will last through the end of February. Invoices from vendors continue to trickle in and will be paid with 2021 dollars if goods were received or services completed by December 31. Therefore, adjustments will be made in the Supplies and Services lines over the next few weeks further increasing total expenditures for the fiscal year.

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.

5. Endowment distribution increased to $300,000 starting in 2021 resulting in higher than budgeted revenue this year. This distribution increase is also planned for next year and is reflected in the 2022 budget.

6. Higher than anticipated Friends Foundation transfers occurred primarily due to the new Caring for Denver grant and renewed NextFifty grant which passed through the Foundation and occurred mid-year. The Special Trust Fund operates on a cash basis resulting in revenue recognition when cash is received rather than when the revenue is earned.

7. Revenue for Bancroft Trust is higher than originally anticipated. Due to the pandemic, 2021 included catching up on some delayed payments from 2020.

8. Actual expenditures in the Restricted Neighborhood Services and Central Library lines varied from what was budgeted because of the grant activities accounted for in these divisions. Many programs in the branches were significantly scaled back and even canceled due to health concerns during the pandemic. The Neighborhood Services line depicts underspending of the After School Is Cool (ASIC) program dollars; these funds will roll over to 2022 and may be spent as programs increase again. The Caring for Denver grant discussed in Note 6 is presented in the Central Library line.
While spending exceeded the approved budget, actual activity is compliant with the terms of the grant.

9. Undesignated expenditures reflect a negative balance because expenditures were reclassified from the Special Trust Fund to the General Fund for the library’s sustainability efforts. DPL cannot transfer budget between funds but can reclassify expenditures if appropriate. Expenditures moved from the General Fund include collection materials and a copier lease, both of which have been historically paid in both the General and Special Trust funds. The Undesignated line was used to account for these transactions in the Special Trust Fund so as not to commingle unrestricted dollars with designated dollars.

10. Total Expenditures budgeted in the Special Trust Fund have increased by 6.3% over the adopted budget for the 2021 fiscal year thus staying within the accepted margin of under a 10% change. All remaining budgets in this fund will remain with DPL and will be available for spending in 2022.

11. Activity for the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Federal stimulus proceeded as planned for operational spending in 2021. All projects have been encumbered and/or paid by December 31, 2021. The majority of the remaining ARPA funding is related to unused personnel dollars. The city was able to return the library positions to the General Fund for ongoing funding, and the remaining $404,000 will be returned to the city for reallocation to other recovery projects. ARPA dollars will again be available to DPL in 2022 for supplies and services projects.

12. Grant funding covers multiple years and start/end dates are not on a calendar year basis. As such the balances on grant lines show the funding remaining for the life of grant projects by donor. In addition the library is continuously applying for grants that will help the organization to further our strategic goals. For example, in 2021 the Institute for Museum and Library Services line reflected three separate grants; one that has been completed, one was a continuation from the prior year, and one that was a new grant for 2021.
Agenda Item 10
Requested Action: Receive Report

February 2022 City Librarian Report

General City Librarian Update
Celebrating Black Heritage Month
February marks the start of Black Heritage Month. The Denver Public Library is celebrating all month long with special programs and events. Learn more here.

Juanita Gray Community Service Awards & Blacks in Colorado Hall of Fame Induction
Our annual Juanita Gray Community Service Awards and biennial Blacks in Colorado Hall of Fame Induction ceremony was held virtually on Saturday, Feb. 5.

The library honored men and women who have made outstanding contributions to the Denver Metro area. This year’s recipients of the Juanita Gray Community Service Awards are Jason Shankle and Viola Garlington. This year’s Blacks in Colorado Hall of Fame inductees are Zipporah Parks Hammond, Judge Gary Jackson and Reverend Leon Kelly. Learn more here.

Thank you to Sonya for helping with the program and to Cathy, Laurie, Cedric and Patty for participating!

2022 Battle of the Books
On Jan. 22, Denver Public Library hosted Battle of the Books with James Mustich, author of 1,000 Books to Read Before You Die. Our literary gladiators included Dr. Elizabeth Renee Fajardo, Dr. Carl Clark, David Heska Wanbli Weiden, Chris Parente, and Representative Leslie Herod.

Click here to watch Battle of the Books.

Winter of Reading 2022
DPL’s annual Winter of Reading runs through February. Winter of Reading is a reading challenge that encourages adults to read and complete library related activities for prizes. Learn more here.

Spotlight on Collections, Technology and Strategy Division
Collection Services
Our Collection Services team is heavily involved in the ongoing branch renovations, applying circulation data and neighborhood demographics information to make recommendations for collection allocations and necessary shelving. We will also be applying this expertise while working with additional locations that could benefit from collection adjustments. For example, we will start with the Hadley Branch and re-arrange shelving in conjunction with the reopening of the basement. Teen collections will likely move to the basement with a planned teen space.
We are looking into the possibility of using some of the State Grant for Libraries funds for a bookmobile collection of multiple copies of popular children’s series, providing an important service to a priority population we might not otherwise reach. The youth served tend to be further from branch libraries, don’t usually have school libraries, and are in areas of Denver with high proportions of students with reading levels below grade level. Providing greater access to popular series will help to support Print Motivation and to keep them engaged in reading.

In the cataloging department we are working to refine our processes to accurately reflect DPL current holdings on Worldcat, a worldwide shared catalog that provides reciprocal borrowing between libraries across the US, Canada, and beyond (Interlibrary Loan). This will ensure DPL’s holdings are accurate, and that holdings are reflected on records with a high level of cataloging as opposed to inferior duplicate records so that our materials are easy for other libraries to identify. This will save us time by preventing many requests for things that we no longer own, and will make it easier for other libraries to find materials to borrow from us.

We continue to improve our catalog records with a focus on equity and inclusive language. In 2022 we will implement Homosaurus subject headings and implement a number of Library of Congress revised subject headings for undocumented immigrants (previously illegal aliens), while continuing to use local subject headings where improvement is still needed. This work helps ensure that when people are searching for items in our catalog, the language is as welcoming as possible.

**Digital Inclusion**

The Digital Inclusion team will continue to evolve our approach to working to close the digital divide in our community. Our latest efforts include launching a Digital Navigator program, which this year consists of 4 FTE positions which will focus specifically on helping underserved individuals adequately access technology. We will continue to provide chromebooks and hotspots for 3 month checkout and are working through the challenge of currently seeing a fairly large loss rate on those items. Both of these efforts have thus far been funded by temporary funding sources, so we are searching for opportunities to more sustainably keep these going beyond 2022.

This year we will be offering free printing and copying at our locations. For people who rely on the library for these services, even modest costs can be a barrier to access the services they
need, and we are thrilled to be able to remove that barrier. We are also bringing faxing
capability back to the library. While faxing seems to be fading into the past as a communication
option, we have customers who still need to fax documents for various reasons, and as fax
machine accessibility is disappearing from many other spaces we will fill that gap.

We are also more fully returning to enhanced in-person services around Digital Inclusion. Our
ideaLABs are open again, and we are re-opening our recording studios. We are also resuming
Drop In Tech Help and technology classes. Finally, we are adding several ideaLAB Maker kits for
staff to check out for passive and active maker programs systemwide. This helps us spread
maker services to locations that don’t currently have ideaLABs. We continue to work with
branch renovation teams to identify the best technology options as we improve our branches.

**Information Technology**
In addition to maintaining our technology systems and contributing to systemwide efforts
across divisions (such as chromebook checkout and free printing), our Information Technology
department is looking for the best ways to serve our customers longer term through a suite of
projects internally referred to as Web Future. In 2022, this will include:

- A renewed effort to reach out to our various audience for user experience research,
  focusing on providing accessibility and a digital experience that is tailored to their
  interests and needs
- Transitioning our online catalog onto a more modern platform - Vega
- Participating with the vendor of our catalog software in the Vega Developer Program.
  This participation ensures that we will have a strong voice as the new platform evolves,
  providing us an important avenue to advocate for the needs of our customers
- Implementation of a mobile application for library services
- Complete translation of denverlibrary.org into Spanish, and concurrently retiring the
  Biblioteca Denver site
- Redesigning the library home page and migrating the kids website

To help support and manage the varied work of the department, we are in the midst of re-
hiring an IT Project Manager position. We are also hiring a Data Warehouse Developer to build
capacity for our data needs. It is also excited to be partnering with Metro State University on
an internship project that supports recruiting, retaining, and building the careers of
underrepresented populations.
**Strategy & Evaluation**

The Strategy & Evaluation team is happily growing. In 2022 we will be adding two new positions to the team - a Management and Evaluation Analyst and a Data Analytics Associate, as well as bringing two people via AmeriCorps VISTA positions. Better staffing will help the team better provide tools for strategic decision making, meaningful evaluation, and data analysis. Paired with the new position our IT department is hiring to administer our Data Warehouse, we will be more ready than ever to help DPL address changing community needs by shifting resources, identifying efficiencies and aligning daily actions with long-term strategies.

Specifically, this year the team will focus on implementing a new strategic management dashboard, which will enable greater reporting and transparency around our strategic efforts. We will continue quarterly action plan sessions that keep our financial investments aligned with the Strategic Roadmap, and will move deeper into helping departments identify appropriate Operational Metrics that will in turn help us better serve our community.

The Strategy & Evaluation team will be formalizing the internal Evaluation Intake Process so that we can be thoughtful about where our evaluation resources are used. This process will be used to identify and prioritize work on process improvements and program evaluations, as well as focusing on larger outcome-based evaluation projects and answering systemwide management research questions such as formalizing a long-range plan for periodic replacement of goods and assets.

The Strategy and Evaluation team is leading with our value of equity, and to bolster this the team will be attending Foundations of Data Equity and Advancing the Data Equity Framework training. This is an exciting year for S&E, and we feel poised to really drive the library’s work forward.

**Stories of Impact**

Our [#ConstructionKids Facebook series](#) highlights the renovation progress in the Children’s Library. We recently shared a photo of the children’s pavilion under construction and asked customers for their memories of the space. It’s clear from the responses the impact Children’s Library staff and the space have had on our community. Some memories shared include:
"Ms. Liesel wooing my active toddler, Damien, with her magic 😊 and making me start to copy her awesomeness, helping me be a better parent."

"Special memories with my kiddos singing with Ms. Rachel and Mr. Warren in that room!"

"Lots and lots of storytimes with Ms. Carrie, Ms. Leisel and Ms. Amy."

"So many memories of my boys growing up in that room: them toddling around at storytime, singing, dancing, reading, playing. Author and illustrator visits. Animal encounters."

"I did not expect to be in quarantine when I moved across the country. It was a miracle when I found your site. Happy holidays to you and yours, Sandra"
Agenda Item 13
Requested Action: Approval

Denver Public Library Commission
Denver Public Library
10 W. 14th Avenue Parkway
Denver, CO  80204

February 7, 2022

Re:  Formal Request Concerning the Honorable Wilma J. Webb

Dear Commission Members,

It is with abundant vigor and energy that the family of the Honorable Wilma J. Webb and Denver community leadership representatives present you with this formal request for the Denver Public Library to pay homage to former Colorado House Of Representative and Denver First Lady Wilma J. Webb. Specifically, we the undersigned request that the Commission agree to formally designate the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library Archive & Research Room as the Honorable Wilma J. Webb Archive & Research Room. To name this critical archival space for Mrs. Webb would be an appropriate act to honor and recognize her for her selfless dedication and unyielding commitment to the global, national, Colorado, and Denver Communities.

Naming the Archive & Research room in Mrs. Webb’s honor will properly recognize her bold vision and solid support for the Blair-Caldwell African-American Research Library, an institution that she strenuously advocated for to come to life. Her dedication to ensuring the existence of Blair-Caldwell aligned with her priority to always recognize the value in the lives and toils of so many African Americans who have made significant contributions to society and who are often not properly remembered or acknowledged.

The Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library Archive & Research Room consist of more than 150 collections of original personal and professional papers, artifacts, photos, and scrapbooks of great African Americans who helped to shape the West. The Research Room also houses an extensive collection of secondary sources of books, journals, magazines, newspapers in microform and serials, on the history, literature, art, music, religion and politics of African Americans in Colorado and throughout the Rocky Mountain West. The Archive & Research Room and its resources wreaks of legacies and stories that Mrs. Webb envisioned to be memorialized and referred to so that present and future generations and will have primary resources to aid with truly learning, remembering, and understanding the criticality of African-Americans in Colorado and throughout the West and their contributions.
This request is advanced to the members of the Denver Public Library Commission with the utmost respect and admiration for the Honorable Wilma J. Webb. To know her is to love her. For convenience, a full biographical articulation about Mrs. Webb is attached for your review. We believe that her record of public service speaks volumes and that having her name attached to the Denver Public Library System by way of the Blair-Caldwell African-American Research Library is a befitting way to honor this woman who has given so much. Thank you for your consideration.

Humbly submitted,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Y. O’Malley</td>
<td>Daughter of Wilma J. Webb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony W. Webb</td>
<td>Son of Wilma J. Webb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Scott-Haynes</td>
<td>Partner, Community Relations &amp; Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portia Prescott</td>
<td>Managing Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khadija Haynes</td>
<td>President/CEO K-Solutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peggy Wortham</td>
<td>Staff Director Friends of Blair-Caldwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherri Jackson</td>
<td>Senior Advisor Denver Department of Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Ryan Ross</td>
<td>Assoc. VC Student Affairs Colorado Community College System</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wilma J. Gerdine Webb was born in Denver, Colorado. Her education includes the University of Colorado Denver, Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government, an Honorary Doctoral Degree of Humane Letters from the University of Northern Colorado, and an Honorary Doctoral Degree from the Art Institute of Colorado.

Wilma Webb formally entered the political arena in 1980 when she was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives. She served 13 years in that position. She was the first Black woman member of the General Assembly’s Joint Budget Committee, which is the Legislature’s most powerful committee, and as a member, co-participated with other JBC members in writing the state’s $multi-billion budget, years 1983 to 1987. As a Colorado lawmaker, and as a member of the minority party, Representative Wilma Webb successfully initiated and delivered laws and programs which improve the lives of all people. These Acts include legislation which provides for Comprehensive Anti-Drug Abuse Treatment; Provisions for Elderly Frail People to Receive Care at Home as Opposed to Nursing Home Placement; a law to enable Subpoena Power to the Colorado Civil Rights Division, and several other positive impacting laws. She was the first Member of the House in recent memory to initiate state bills to provide for Compulsory Full-Day Kindergarten. In some of her most challenging but victorious and rewarding battles, Representative Wilma J. Webb fought for four years from 1981 to 1984 before the State of Colorado General Assembly adopted the Martin Luther King, Jr. official holiday.

Wilma Webb served as Denver’s First Lady for twelve years during her husband’s service as the first Black mayor of the City and County of Denver in 1991. In that capacity, she chaired special governmental committees, managed personnel, and represented the City and County of Denver at key public/private meetings and events in the City, the State, the Nation, and internationally. As First Lady, Wilma worked tirelessly on anti-substance abuse programs and youth and family issues. Her efforts to promote the Arts resulted in the founding of the Denver Art, Culture, and Film Foundation in 1994. She, as a patron of the Arts, led the effort in developing Denver’s Vision for the Arts and created and developed Denver’s Process for the Procurement and Accession of Public Art.

In 1997, President William J. Clinton appointed Wilma J. Webb to serve as the Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Labor’s Region VIII where she had responsibility for the administration and enforcement of 180 federal statutes governing workplace activities including pension rights, health benefits, and job training in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. Wilma Webb became the first woman to serve in this capacity. In this position, she was responsible for oversight of this region’s portion of a $37.9 billion Department of Labor budget and its eighteen department agencies.
Wilma J. Webb and her husband, former Mayor Wellington E. Webb, are the parents of four adult children. She is also a grandmother. She is a member of the professional and international sororities and service organizations of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and The Links, Incorporated, and has founded, led, and served on several City, State, and National boards and commissions as Founder and Chairperson Emeritus of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Colorado Holiday Commission, the Founder of the Denver Art, Culture, and Film Foundation, is a Commissioner of the Colorado Women’s Centennial Commission, The DM 42 Foundation, a visionary behind the Blair-Caldwell African-American Research Library, and she is a member of the Zion Baptist Church. She has been recognized and honored for her significant contributions by hundreds of for-profit, non-profit, national, and international organizations, including the National Humanitarian Award, The National Human Rights Award, The National Education Association Carter G. Woodson Award for Human and Civil Rights, the Association for Retarded Citizen’s Legislator of the Year Award, Induction into the Women’s Hall of Fame in 1991, and the Blacks in Colorado Hall of Fame, and the Colorado Banking Association’s Political Award. Prior to entering public service, she held administrative positions with United Banks of Denver, Mobil Corporation, and the Colorado Office of Minority Business Enterprises.

Smiley Branch Library resumed service February 1, 2021.

9 locations reopened for half-day in-building service Tue-Sat beginning March 9, 2021. Remaining branches (except Central, Smiley, and Byers) opened for half-day service on April 13, while the 9 pilot branches moved to full days. May 19 all open branches resumed full-day service Tue-Sat (Westwood Tue-Fri).

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.
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
9 locations reopened for half-day in-building service Tue-Sat beginning March 9, 2021. Remaining branches (except Central, Smiley, and Byers) opened for half-day service on April 13, while the 9 pilot branches moved to full days. May 19 all open branches resumed full-day service Tue-Sat (Westwood Tue-Fri).
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Total Circulation</th>
<th>+/- Previous Month</th>
<th>2021/2021 Year/Year</th>
<th>YTD Y/Y</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athmar Park</td>
<td>3,669</td>
<td>↑ 463</td>
<td>↑ 3,669</td>
<td>61.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear Valley*</td>
<td>13,352</td>
<td>(262)</td>
<td>↑ 13,352</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library</td>
<td>3,870</td>
<td>↑ 381</td>
<td>↑ 3,870</td>
<td>106.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunderbird Man (formerly Byers)</td>
<td>1,675</td>
<td>↑ 204</td>
<td>↑ 1,675</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Library</td>
<td>18,310</td>
<td>↑ 1,332</td>
<td>↑ 18,310</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decker</td>
<td>8,477</td>
<td>↑ 112</td>
<td>↑ 8,477</td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eugene Field</td>
<td>17,780</td>
<td>↑ 2,534</td>
<td>↑ 17,780</td>
<td>54.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford-Warren</td>
<td>8,562</td>
<td>(72)</td>
<td>↑ 8,562</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Valley Ranch*</td>
<td>11,792</td>
<td>(39)</td>
<td>↑ 11,792</td>
<td>102.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hadley</td>
<td>3,873</td>
<td>↑ 170</td>
<td>↑ 3,873</td>
<td>58.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampden*</td>
<td>16,308</td>
<td>(635)</td>
<td>↑ 16,308</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Services (Bookmobiles)</td>
<td>4,774</td>
<td>↑ 140</td>
<td>↑ 4,774</td>
<td>222.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montbello</td>
<td>2,812</td>
<td>(300)</td>
<td>↑ 2,812</td>
<td>36.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Hill</td>
<td>22,364</td>
<td>↑ 2,648</td>
<td>↑ 22,364</td>
<td>43.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pauline Robinson</td>
<td>3,069</td>
<td>(18)</td>
<td>↑ 3,069</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodolfo &quot;Corky&quot; Gonzales*</td>
<td>13,843</td>
<td>↑ 959</td>
<td>↑ 13,843</td>
<td>141.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross-Barnum</td>
<td>4,069</td>
<td>↑ 229</td>
<td>↑ 4,069</td>
<td>51.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross-Broadway</td>
<td>8,937</td>
<td>↑ 331</td>
<td>↑ 8,937</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross-Cherry Creek*</td>
<td>15,488</td>
<td>(3,745)</td>
<td>↑ 15,488</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross-University Hills*</td>
<td>34,274</td>
<td>↑ 1,746</td>
<td>↑ 34,274</td>
<td>48.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Gary*</td>
<td>39,019</td>
<td>↑ 1,266</td>
<td>↑ 39,019</td>
<td>58.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schlessman Family</td>
<td>31,379</td>
<td>↑ 1,048</td>
<td>↑ 31,379</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smiley</td>
<td>7,264</td>
<td>↑ 717</td>
<td>↑ 7,264</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valdez-Perry*</td>
<td>1,697</td>
<td>↑ 102</td>
<td>↑ 1,697</td>
<td>94.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Village</td>
<td>17,974</td>
<td>↑ 205</td>
<td>↑ 17,974</td>
<td>66.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westwood*</td>
<td>1,210</td>
<td>↑ 90</td>
<td>↑ 1,210</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodbury</td>
<td>14,572</td>
<td>↑ 632</td>
<td>↑ 14,572</td>
<td>-11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denverlibrary.org Downloadables</td>
<td>237,352</td>
<td>↑ 18,766</td>
<td>↑ 237,352</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>567,765</strong></td>
<td>↑ 29,004</td>
<td><strong>567,765</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


*9 locations reopened for half-day in building service Tue-Sat beginning March 9, 2021. These locations added full days Tue-Sat beginning April 13, while all other locations but Smiley, Byers, and Central began half days. Smiley opened for half days on April 28; Byers on June 15, 2021. All branches except Central and Byers were open full days as of May 19, 2021. Westwood is only open Tue-Fri 10-5. Central reopened with very limited service on Floor 1 on July 18, 2021. In November 2021, the former Byers Branch Library was renamed as John "Thunderbird Man" Emhoolah, Jr. Branch Library.
## Denver Public Library

### Monthly Circulation by Branch

#### December 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Total Circulation</th>
<th>+/- Previous Month</th>
<th>2021/2020 Year/Year</th>
<th>YTD Y/Y</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athmar Park</td>
<td>3,206</td>
<td>(1,330)</td>
<td>3,206</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear Valley*</td>
<td>13,614</td>
<td>(1,110)</td>
<td>13,614</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library</td>
<td>3,489</td>
<td>(285)</td>
<td>3,489</td>
<td>-2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunderbird Man (formerly Byers)</td>
<td>1,471</td>
<td>(198)</td>
<td>1,471</td>
<td>-17.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Library</td>
<td>16,978</td>
<td>(96)</td>
<td>16,978</td>
<td>-46.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decker</td>
<td>8,365</td>
<td>(655)</td>
<td>8,365</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eugene Field</td>
<td>15,246</td>
<td>(502)</td>
<td>15,246</td>
<td>50.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford-Warren</td>
<td>8,634</td>
<td>(699)</td>
<td>8,634</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Valley Ranch*</td>
<td>11,831</td>
<td>(609)</td>
<td>11,831</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hadley</td>
<td>3,703</td>
<td>(179)</td>
<td>3,703</td>
<td>-6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampden*</td>
<td>16,943</td>
<td>(326)</td>
<td>16,943</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Services (Bookmobiles)</td>
<td>4,634</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>4,634</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montbello</td>
<td>3,112</td>
<td>(67)</td>
<td>3,112</td>
<td>-1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Hill</td>
<td>19,716</td>
<td>(1,820)</td>
<td>19,716</td>
<td>40.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pauline Robinson</td>
<td>3,087</td>
<td>(19)</td>
<td>3,087</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodolfo &quot;Corky&quot; Gonzales*</td>
<td>12,884</td>
<td>(1,207)</td>
<td>12,884</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross-Barnum</td>
<td>3,840</td>
<td>(384)</td>
<td>3,840</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross-Broadway</td>
<td>8,606</td>
<td>(252)</td>
<td>8,606</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross-Cherry Creek*</td>
<td>19,233</td>
<td>(150)</td>
<td>19,233</td>
<td>51.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross-University Hills*</td>
<td>32,528</td>
<td>(887)</td>
<td>32,528</td>
<td>48.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Gary*</td>
<td>37,753</td>
<td>(4,453)</td>
<td>37,753</td>
<td>42.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schlessman Family</td>
<td>30,331</td>
<td>(1,168)</td>
<td>30,331</td>
<td>30.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smiley</td>
<td>6,547</td>
<td>(452)</td>
<td>6,547</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valdez-Perry*</td>
<td>1,595</td>
<td>(348)</td>
<td>1,595</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Village</td>
<td>17,769</td>
<td>(138)</td>
<td>17,769</td>
<td>46.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westwood*</td>
<td>1,120</td>
<td>(94)</td>
<td>1,120</td>
<td>-2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodbury</td>
<td>13,940</td>
<td>1,142</td>
<td>13,940</td>
<td>33.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denverlibrary.org Downloadables</td>
<td>218,586</td>
<td>6,278</td>
<td>218,586</td>
<td>-0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>538,761</strong></td>
<td>(9,739)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- *9 locations reopened for half-day in building service Tue-Sat beginning March 9, 2021. These locations added full days Tue-Sat beginning April 13, while all other locations but Smiley, Byers, and Central began half days. Smiley opened for half days on April 28; Byers on June 15, 2021. All branches except Central and Byers were open full days as of May 19, 2021. Westwood is only open Tue-Fri 10-5. Central reopened with very limited service on Floor 1 on July 18, 2021. In November 2021, the former Byers Branch Library was renamed as John "Thunderbird Man" Emhoolah, Jr. Branch Library.
Denver Public Library
Total New Library Cards By Month

- Smiley Branch Library resumed service February 1, 2021.
- 9 locations reopened for half-day in-building service Tue-Sat beginning March 9, 2021. Remaining branches (except Central, Smiley, and Byers) opened for half-day service on April 13, while the 9 pilot branches moved to full days. May 19 all open branches resumed full-day service Tue-Sat (Westwood Tue-Fri).

New Cards - total number of new library card registrations (including computer user only cards), from Polaris.
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. Spring 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.
All Ages Storytime w/ Mr. Wil (Video)


Denver Public Library | Video This article was posted online by Denver Public Library | Video. Spot On Colorado collects excerpts of news articles from this source and add these in the 'Denver Area'-category.

DPL Archives: Check out these old photos of Lakeside

By Ana Campbell, Kyle Harris, Maggie Donahue, Esteban L. Hernandez

https://denverite.com/2022/02/09/dpl-archive-check-out-these-old-photos-of-lakeside/

Donated to the Denver Public Library by the Rocky Mountain News

Mini cuentacuentos para bebs en espaol con Lupita (Video)


Denver Public Library | Video This article was posted online by Denver Public Library | Video. Spot On Colorado collects excerpts of news articles from this source and add these in the 'Denver Area'-category.
Ways to celebrate Black history in Denver, this month and year round

By Esteban L. Hernandez, Kyle Harris, Paolo Zialcita, Kevin Beaty

https://denverite.com/2022/02/08/ways-to-celebrate-black-history-in-denver-this-month-and-year-roun...

In February Passages: Bound and Free Exhibit What: Presented by Denver Public Library, this art series by Verline “Mijiza” Geaither interprets the experience of some of the Black men, women and children who have lived in the United States.

Toddler Storytime with Kristi (Video)


Denver Public Library | Video This article was posted online by Denver Public Library | Video. Spot On Colorado collects excerpts of news articles from this source and add these in the 'Denver Area'-category.

Fired teen librarian in Colorado files discrimination complaints, cites canceled LGBTQ and anti-racism programs

By Mike Littwin, Dan England

https://coloradosun.com/2022/02/07/fired-librarian-erie-antiracism-lgbtq-colorado/

Others share her concerns, including Dodie Ownes, the co-chair of the Colorado Association of Libraries’ Intellectual Freedom Committee and a librarian with Denver Public Library, where Parks worked as a reference librarian for two and a half years. ... She said her record was spotless up until that point, though she didn’t want to share past evaluations, either from High Plains or from Denver Public Libraries, where she started her career as a librarian about five years ago. She joined the Erie library in 2019.

The Sunriser | Thirsty soil means snowpack doesn’t go as far as it used to

https://mailchi.mp/coloradosun/sunriser-web-466416
" — Dodie Ownes, the co-chair of the Colorado Association of Libraries' Intellectual Freedom Committee and a librarian with Denver Public Library. The High Plains Library District implemented a new policy declaring that library programs should not be "intentionally inflammatory or polarizing in the

A Weld County librarian says she was fired after speaking out when LBGTQ+, youth of color programming got cancelled — The NoCo Optimist

By Kelly Ragan, Dan England

Others share her concerns, including Dodie Ownes, the co-chair of the Colorado Association of Libraries' Intellectual Freedom Committee and a librarian with Denver Public Library. ... She said her record was spotless up until that point, though she didn't want to share past evaluations, either from High Plains or from Denver Public Libraries, where she started her career as a librarian about five years ago. She joined the Erie library in 2019.

Saturday Matinee Film Discussion: LA JETTEE AND GRAFFITI with with Walter Chaw and Ganzeer (Video)

Former Denver Judge Gary Jackson inducted into Blacks in Colorado Hall of Fame.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Media Outlet</th>
<th>Published Date</th>
<th>SimilarWeb UVM</th>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Journalist Shares</th>
<th>Journalist Reach</th>
<th>Total Engagement</th>
<th>Sentiment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Former Denver Judge Gary Jackson inducted into Blacks in Colorado Hall of Fame</td>
<td>The Denver Post</td>
<td>Feb. 5, 2022, 2:08 p.m.</td>
<td>3,323,779</td>
<td>192,405</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flashback Friday Rockpile: Colorado baseball history, Part 3: The Silver Bullets</td>
<td>Purple Row</td>
<td>Feb. 4, 2022, 8 a.m.</td>
<td>14,042</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barney Ford Day Kicks Off Black History Month In Colorado</td>
<td>KCNC-TV (Denver, CO)</td>
<td>Feb. 3, 2022, midnight</td>
<td>1,399,378</td>
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<td>Celebrate Lunar New Year in Denver with street fairs, performances &amp; more!</td>
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Jackson's induction can be viewed virtually this afternoon, along with the Juanita Gray Community Service Awards, at a Denver Public Library Zoom link.

Joelle Milholm Thanks to the Rocky Mountain News archives in NewsBank (which you can access with a library card, in my case from the Denver Public Library), I have been digging through old articles to refresh my memory on details of the game.

(credit: Denver Public Library Special Collections) Beyond his business ventures, Ford was politically active in Colorado. He was the first African American to be nominated to the Territorial Legislature.

Where Virtual, presented by the Denver Public Library Celebrate the holiday and bring in the new year by attending this free five-
part cultural workshop series for kids ages 5-17 on Chinese culture and the Mandarin language. Students will meet on GoogleMeet. Learn more.

**Toddler Storytime with Laura (Video)**


*Denver Public Library | Video* This article was posted online by *Denver Public Library | Video*. Spot On Colorado collects excerpts of news articles from this source and add these in the 'Denver Area'-category.

**Cuentacuentos en espaol con Lupita (Video)**


*Denver Public Library | Video* This article was posted online by *Denver Public Library | Video*. Spot On Colorado collects excerpts of news articles from this source and add these in the 'Denver Area'-category.

**Happy Lunar New Year! Toast to good luck and positive energy at these events in Denver.**

By Ana Campbell, Kyle Harris, Esteban L. Hernandez, Maggie Donahue

https://denverite.com/2022/01/31/happy-lunar-new-year-toast-to-good-luck-and-positive-energy-at-the...

*What:* Presented by *Denver Public Library*, this five-part free online course teaches kids age 5-17 about Chinese culture and the Mandarin language, with special focus on Lunar New Year traditions, customs, food, and more.
The Satanic Panic of the ’20s

By Fred Clark

https://www.patheos.com/blogs/slacktivist/2022/01/27/the-satanic-panic-of-the-20s/

The Denver Public Library doesn’t get that kind of attention, even though its archives are full of material about the Satanic Panic.

Developer sought to build Globeville site's income-restricted housing

By Eric Heinz

https://businessden.com/2022/01/31/developer-sought-to-build-globeville-sites-income-restricted-hou...

The request mentions Denver Public Library may be interested in establishing an 8,000- to 10,000-square-foot branch on the property, which could satisfy that requirement. Part of the application process includes providing a financial plan for the project.

Make a Hong Bao for Lunar New Year (Video)


Denver Public Library | Video This article was posted online by Denver Public Library | Video. Spot On Colorado collects excepts of news articles from this source and add these in the 'Denver Area'-category.

Lunar New Year Mandarin Greeting (Video)


Denver Public Library | Video This article was posted online by Denver Public Library | Video. Spot On Colorado collects excepts of news articles from this source and add these in the 'Denver Area'-category.
Loveland contracts search firm to find new library director

https://muckrack.com/link/oAlKP5/loveland-contracts-search-firm-to-find-new-library-director

The Boulder Public Library, Denver Public Library and Jefferson County Public Library districts have all worked with them before, as have the Poudre River Public Library District in Fort Collins and the High Plains Library District in Greeley.

---

By Will Costello

https://www.reporterherald.com/2022/01/28/loveland-contracts-search-firm-to-find-new-library-direct...

The Boulder Public Library, Denver Public Library and Jefferson County Public Library districts have all worked with them before, as have the Poudre River Public Library District in Fort Collins and the High Plains Library District in Greeley.

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Flashback Friday Rockpile: Colorado baseball history, Part 2: The Denver Post Tournament’s trailblazing integration

By Joelle Milholm

https://www.purplerow.com/2022/1/28/22905416/colorado-rockies-colorado-baseball-history-part-2-satc...

To get a better feel for what it looked like, the Denver Public Library has some great pictures in its Western History Collection, much of which is digitized and available for viewing like this picture from Broadway and Center Street and this action shot from inside the park.

---

Guided Meditation with Lisa Lowe: Self Compassion (Video)


Denver Public Library Video This article was posted online by Denver Public Library Video. Spot On Colorado collects excepts
Ricardo Martinez remembered as "a warrior" for justice in Denver schools

By Mike Littwin, Melanie Asmar
https://coloradosun.com/2022/01/27/ricardo-martinez-obituary/

(Western History Collection, Denver Public Library) This story was originally published by Chalkbeat Colorado. More at chalkbeat.org. For three decades, Ricardo Martinez, co-founder of the advocacy group Padres & Jóvenes Unidos, helped parents and students fight racism in Denver Public Schools.

Toddler Storytime with Gina (Video)

Denver Public Library | Video This article was posted online by Denver Public Library | Video. Spot On Colorado collects excepts of news articles from this source and add these in the 'Denver Area'-category.

Plan Your Vegetable Garden with CSU Master Gardeners (Video)

Denver Public Library | Video This article was posted online by Denver Public Library | Video. Spot On Colorado collects excepts of news articles from this source and add these in the 'Denver Area'-category.

CuentaCuentos con Mnica! (Video)
https://spotoncolorado.com/denver-area/1324610/cuentacuentos--
Battle of the Books with Author Jim Mustich (Video)


Free KN95 masks now available at Denver's recreation centers

https://muckrack.com/link/oAC1pc/free-kn95-masks-now-available-at-denvers-recreation-centers

fact or fiction?

https://denver.citycast.fm/2022/01/25/so-whats-the-deal-with-baking-at-altitude/

Contrary to the governor’s announcement last week, masks will not be available at fire stations or Denver Public Library branches. ?Lawmakers crackdown on catalytic converter theft: A bipartisan bill has been introduced to help curb the pilfering of the pricey car part.
Free KN95 masks available at Denver recreation centers - Denver, Colorado

Contrary to last week's state announcement, libraries and fire departments will not provide masks in Denver. The Denver Public Library and several other places on the first list issued the following statement: They didn't have a mask to hand out, and later deleted.

Free KN95 masks now available at Denver's recreation centers

By Meg Wingerter

The Denver Public Library and some other locations on the initial list put out statements saying they didn't have any masks to give out, and were later removed. N95 masks offer the highest level of protection, followed by KN95s, surgical masks and cloth masks.

Poudre River Public Library District appoints new director, Diane Lapierre

By Brooke Pippin

Lapierre previously worked with the Denver Public Library and served as director of the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation. “I am excited to explore a larger system, a larger community and a library district,” Lapierre said. “There are exciting new challenges for me.”

Dartmouth Medal for excellence in reference awarded to The Oxford Companion to Spirits and Cocktails

By Ninah Moore

Coutts, Western Kentucky University; Lauren Seegmiller, Denver Public Library, and Kaite Mediatore Stover, Kansas City Public Library.
# The story behind the 1976 Denver Olympics that never happened

By Les Carpenter


Posters used in Colorado's effort to secure an Olympic bid in 1976 are part of the memorabilia collection of the Denver Public Library. (David Zalubowski/AP) DENVER - They were young and principled and determined to change the world at a time when it seemed the world was changing all around them.

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## Poudre River Public Library District appoints new director, Diane Lapierre

https://muckrack.com/link/oApMKv/poudre-river-public-library-district-appoints-new-director-diane-l...

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## Winter of Reading Book Buzz (Video)


Denver Public Library | Video

This article was posted online by Denver Public Library | Video. Spot On Colorado collects excerpts of news articles from this source and add these in the 'Denver
Colorado to distribute free KN95 masks beginning Thursday
By Ryan Warner, Carla Jimenez

Not long after the announcement of the program on Tuesday, the Denver Public Library system said on Twitter it would not immediately be distributing masks, contradicting the original list of locations provided by the office of Gov. Jared Polis. That tweet has now been deleted.

Read 'The Sirens Of Mars' With The SciFri Book Club

Brooklyn Public Library in Brooklyn, NY Denver Public Library in Denver, CO Tilton Library in South Deerfield, MA Anchorage Public Library in Anchorage, AK Ann Arbor Public Library in Ann Arbor, MI Southworth Library in Dryden, NY Join Our Community Space And as you start reading, join us on our

Flashback Friday Rockpile: Colorado baseball history, Part 1: The shifting color line
By Joelle Milholm
https://www.purplerow.com/2022/1/21/22894389/colorado-rockies-colorado-baseball-history-part-1-the-...
The White Elephants played on a field at 23rd St. and Welton, close to Lawson Park and the Blair Caldwell African American Research Library (a branch of the Denver Public Library) today.

Where to get free KN95 masks in Colorado
By Morgan Whitley

MEDIA OUTLET Durango Herald
PUBLISHED Jan. 21, 2022, 12:17 p.m.
SIMILARWEB UVM 203,324
AUDIENCE 5,691
JOURNALIST SHARES 0
JOURNALIST REACH 0
TOTAL ENGAGEMENT 16
SENTIMENT Positive

MEDIA OUTLET Science Friday
PUBLISHED Jan. 21, 2022, 8 a.m.
SIMILARWEB UVM 330,014
AUDIENCE
JOURNALIST SHARES 1
JOURNALIST REACH 1,207
TOTAL ENGAGEMENT 257
SENTIMENT Positive

MEDIA OUTLET Purple Row
PUBLISHED Jan. 21, 2022, 8 a.m.
SIMILARWEB UVM 14,042
AUDIENCE
JOURNALIST SHARES 0
JOURNALIST REACH 0
TOTAL ENGAGEMENT 12
SENTIMENT Positive

MEDIA OUTLET KREX-TV (Grand Junction, CO)
Colorado to give out free KN95 masks at libraries, but program’s rollout leads to confusion

By Jacob Shapiro

https://www.fortmorgantimes.com/2022/01/19/free-kn95-surgical-masks-denver-colorado

Public Library — warned the public they had no masks to offer. ... The Denver Public Library has since deleted its social media posts on the subject. Nick Potter, director of community relations for the Pueblo Library District, said the announcement wasn’t a surprise, but, rather, “a matter of folks seeing the headline and skipping the details.”

Colorado to give out free KN95 masks at libraries, but program’s rollout leads to confusion

By Jacob Shapiro

https://www.journal-advocate.com/2022/01/20/free-kn95-surgical-masks-denver-colorado

The Denver Public Library later deleted its social media posts on the subject. ... Later Wednesday, the state removed the Denver Public Library from its list of mask pick-up locations, adding a note that said, “Denver Public Libraries are unable to distribute masks to the public at this time.”

Trio of Montrose community sites send opt-in requests for the state's free mask program

By Josue Perez


Denver Public Library, in a since-deleted tweet, quickly announced that it would not distribute masks at the program’s start. “Denver Public Libraries are unable to distribute masks to the public at this time.”
Colorado to give out free KN95 masks at libraries, but program’s rollout leads to confusion

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Free KN95, surgical-grade masks to be provided at Colorado libraries and community centers

By Jacob Shapiro

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Colorado to give out free KN95 masks at libraries, but program's rollout leads to confusion

https://muckrack.com/link/oaE8Q1/colorado-to-give-out-free-kn95-masks-at-libraries-but-programs-rol...

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Colorado to give out free KN95 masks at libraries, but program's rollout leads to confusion

https://muckrack.com/link/oaE8QA/colorado-to-give-out-free-kn95-masks-at-libraries-but-programs-rol...

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Colorado plans to distribute free KN95 and surgical-grade masks through public libraries, fire stations and other community locations beginning this week, but the program's rollout already has led to confusion as some agencies including the Denver Public Library warned the public they had no masks to

Program rollout leads to confusion; State to give out free KN95s, but some agencies caught off guard

https://muckrack.com/link/oaXzDE/program-rollout-leads-to-confusion-state-to-give-out-free-kr95s-bu...

The Denver Public Library later deleted its social media posts on the subject. ... Later Wednesday, the state removed the Denver Public Library from its list of mask pickup locations, adding a note that said, "Denver Public Libraries are unable to distribute masks to the public at this time.

Trio of Montrose community sites send opt-in requests for the state's free mask program

https://muckrack.com/link/oaEWgu/trio-of-montrose-community-sites-send-opt-in-requests-for-the-stat...

Denver Public Library, in a since-deleted tweet, quickly announced that it would not distribute masks at the program's start. "Denver Public Libraries are unable to distribute masks to the public at this time.

Mascarillas KN95 gratis: dónde conseguirlas en Colorado

By Janet Oravetz, Laura Casillas


Please be aware that Denver Public Library locations are not distributing free KN95 or surgical grade masks to the public at this time. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Colorado to give out free KN95 masks at libraries, but program's rollout leads to
confusion
By Jacob Shapiro, Kiara DeMare
https://www.timescall.com/2022/01/19/free-kn95-surgical-masks-denver-colorado/
Colorado plans to distribute free KN95 and surgical-grade masks through public libraries, fire stations and other community locations beginning this week, but the program’s rollout already has led to confusion as some agencies — including the Denver Public Library — warned the public they had no masks.

Water and Power Associates
By Byrne Building
https://waterandpower.org/museum/
California Historical Landmarks Listing (Los Angeles)
"^OnBunkerHill.org: Second Street Cable Railway **#Public Art in LA: Campo Santo *#Los Angeles Athletic Club ***#LA Street Names - LA Times ###Metro.net - Los Angeles Transit History ###California State Library Image Archive ### ... #Denver Public Library Image Archive **#The Cable-Car-Guy.com: The Los Angeles Railway, Temple Street Cable Railway ###Views of Early Los Angeles #**Flickr.com: Michael Ryerson #**Historic Los Angeles Theaters: Child's Opera House #*#LA Conservancy: Boyle Hotel #**Historical Buildings

Community groups hope Colorado's free mask distribution breaks down health equity barriers
https://www.9news.com/article/news/local/next/free-kn95-mask-distribution-health-equity-barriers/73...
Neither were Denver public libraries. The free at-home tests being shipped by the federal government are expected to arrive in the coming weeks. Each household can order four tests.

Colorado to give out free KN95 masks at libraries, but program's rollout leads to confusion
By Jacob Shapiro, Kiara Demare
https://www.coloradodaily.com/2022/01/19/free-kn95-surgical-masks-denver-colorado/
Colorado plans to distribute free KN95 and surgical-grade masks through public libraries, fire stations and other community
Colorado wants to give out free KN95 masks at your local library. But maybe call ahead first to see if they have them

By Stina Sieg, Obed Manuel, Claire Cleveland
https://www.cpr.org/2022/01/19/colorado-free-kn95-masks-library-response/

Denver Public Library — the state’s largest library system — notably issued a quick response on Twitter saying it would not be distributing masks immediately. That tweet has since been deleted. … But, as of Wednesday, the Denver Public Library has been removed from the state’s official list of distribution centers, with an amendment at the bottom. Denver Public Libraries are unable to distribute masks to the public at this time.

Colorado's free mask rollout leads to confusion in many communities

By David Mullen
https://www.coloradopolitics.com/coronavirus/colorados-free-mask-rollout-leads-to-confusion-in-many...

KN95, surgical-grade masks will be available to all Coloradans. The state initially listed Denver Public Library as a distribution site where residents could get free masks. But on Wednesday, library officials said they were not handing out facial coverings.

Colorado's free mask rollout leads to confusion in many communities

By David Mullen

The state initially listed Denver Public Library as a distribution site where residents could get free masks. But on Wednesday, library officials said they were not handing out facial coverings.

Free mask rollout leads to some confusion

By David Mullen

https://www.coloradopolitics.com/coronavirus/colorados-free-mask-rollout-leads-to-confusion-in-many...

The state initially listed Denver Public Library as a distribution site where residents could get free masks. But on Wednesday, library officials said they were not handing out facial coverings.
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### Where to get free KN95 masks in Colorado

**By Morgan Whitley**


-. La Jara, CO 81140 Cortez Public Library 202 N Park Street, Cortez, CO 81321 Creede/Mineral Combined Library 450 Corsair Drive, Creede, CO 81130 **Denver Public Library** Multiple Locations – Click to View Durango Public Library 1900 East 3rd Avenue, Durango, CO 81301 Estes Valley Library 335

### Colorado to give out free KN95 masks at libraries, but program’s rollout leads to confusion

**By Jacob Shapiro, Kiara Demare**

https://www.dailycamera.com/2022/01/19/free-kn95-surgical-masks-denver-colorado

Public Library — warned the public they had no masks to offer. ... The **Denver Public Library** has since deleted its social media posts on the subject. Nick Potter, director of community relations for the Pueblo Library District, said the announcement wasn’t a surprise, but, rather, “a matter of folks seeing the headline and skipping the details.”

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https://www.lamarledger.com/2022/01/19/free-kn95-surgical-masks-denver-colorado/

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Public Library — warned the public they had no masks

Cuentacuentos con Natalie (Video)
https://spotoncolorado.com/denver-area/1317300/cuentacuentos-con-natalie-video.html

Denver Public Library | Video This article was posted online by Denver Public Library | Video. Spot On Colorado collects excerpts of news articles from this source and add these in the 'Denver Area'-category.

Colorado to give out free KN95 masks at libraries, but program’s rollout leads to confusion
By Jacob Shapiro
https://www.coloradohometownweekly.com/2022/01/19/free-kn95-surgical-masks-denver-colorado/

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Colorado to give out free KN95 masks at libraries, but program’s rollout leads to confusion
By Jacob Shapiro
https://www.broomfieldenterprise.com/2022/01/19/free-kn95-surgical-masks-denver-colorado/

Colorado plans to distribute free KN95 and surgical-grade masks through public libraries, fire stations and other community locations beginning this week, but the program’s rollout already has led to confusion as some agencies — including the Denver Public Library — warned the public they had no masks.

Free KN95, surgical-grade masks to be provided at Colorado libraries and community centers
By Jake Shapiro
https://www.denverpost.com/2022/01/19/free-kn95-surgical-masks-denver-colorado/

The Denver Post

Jan. 19, 2022, 10:24 a.m.

3,323,779

192,405

9
The Denver Public Library has since deleted its social media posts on the subject. Colorado has reported more than 10,000 new cases of COVID-19 in a single day nine times in 2022, after having never reached six figures for new cases in a single day at any point prior during the pandemic.

Colorado distributes free KN95 masks
https://muckrack.com/link/oaEqM5/colorado-distributes-free-kn95-masks

Not long after the announcement of the program on Tuesday, the Denver Public Library system said on Twitter it would not immediately be distributing masks, contradicting the original list of locations provided by the office of Gov. Jared Polis. That tweet has now been deleted.

Colorado distributes free KN95 masks; Durango Public Library ran out of the face coverings before 1 p.m. Thursday
https://muckrack.com/link/oaEqMe/colorado-distributes-free-kn95-masks-durango-public-library-ran-ou...

Not long after the announcement of the program on Tuesday, the Denver Public Library system said on Twitter it would not immediately be distributing masks, contradicting the original list of locations provided by the office of Gov. Jared Polis. That tweet has now been deleted.

Colorado to distribute free KN95 masks beginning Thursday; Durango Public Library will distribute face covering while supplies last
By Ryan Warner, Carla Jimenez

Not long after the announcement of the program on Tuesday, the Denver Public Library system stated on Twitter it would not immediately be distributing masks, contradicting the original list of locations provided by the office of Gov. Jared Polis. That tweet has now been deleted.

Colorado to give out free KN95 masks at libraries, but program's rollout leads to
Colorado plans to distribute free KN95 and surgical-grade masks through public libraries, fire stations and other community locations beginning this week, but the program's rollout already has led to confusion as some agencies - including the **Denver Public Library** - warned the public they had no masks.

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Free KN95, surgical-grade masks to be provided at Colorado libraries and community centers

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Colorado to provide KN95, surgical grade masks for free later this week. Here’s where to get them

By Oscar Contreras, Óscar Contreras

WHERE TO GET THEM: See the full list of libraries where you’ll be able to pick KN95 and surgical grade masks after Jan. 19. Some libraries on the list, including Denver Public Libraries, Poudre Libraries, Front Range CC and Arapahoe Libraries, have reached out to Denver7 saying they do not have KN95 ... By Wednesday afternoon, a spokeswoman for the Denver Public Library told Denver7 they’ll ask the state to remove them from their list.

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Colorado to provide KN95, surgical grade masks for free later this week. Here’s where to get them

By Óscar Contreras

WHERE TO GET THEM: See the full list of libraries where you’ll be
able to pick KN95 and surgical grade masks after Jan. 19. Some libraries on the list, including Denver Public Libraries, Poudre Libraries, Front Range CC and Arapahoe Libraries, have reached out to Denver7 saying they do not have KN95. By Wednesday afternoon, a spokeswoman for the Denver Public Library told Denver7 they’ll ask the state to remove them from their list. Bemis Public Library in Littleton got its shipment of KN95 masks and surgical masks on Tuesday.

**Battle of the Books 2022 Rocks On!**

https://www.denverlibrary.org/blog/books-library-events/dodie/battle-books-2022-rocks

**Denver Public Library** is delighted to once again host Jim Mustich, author of 1000 Books to Read Before You Die, for an epic virtual Winter of Reading Battle of the Books, on Saturday, January 22, 6-7 p.m. How does the Battle work?

**Where to get free KN95 masks in Colorado**


.., La Jara, CO 81140 Cortez Public Library 202 N Park Street, Cortez, CO 81321 Creede/Mineral Combined Library 450 Corsair Drive, Creede, CO 81130 Denver Public Library Multiple Locations – Click to View Durango Public Library 1900 East 3rd Avenue, Durango, CO 81301 Estes Valley Library 335

**Coloradans rush to pick up free KN95 masks**

By Amanda Horvath


While some other places are getting calls asking about masks when they were never on list, or in Denver Public Library’s case — they are not handing out masks but are on the list. The state thanks everyone for their patience as distribution sites, "get up and running." ... An important note: The above list provided by the governor's office originally indicated that the Denver Public Library (DPL) system will be distributing masks the public. However, the library said otherwise.
## Where to get free KN95 and surgical grade masks

> https://covid19.colorado.gov/freemasks

(mobile-friendly version) Open Embed *Denver Public Libraries* are unable to distribute masks to the public at this time.

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## Where to get free KN95 masks in Colorado

**By Morgan Whitley**


The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment had included *Denver Public Libraries* in the following list, but *Denver Public Libraries* has stated they will not be distributing masks.

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## Where to get free KN95 masks in Colorado

**By Ryan Warner, Carla Jimenez**

> https://www.cpr.org/2022/01/18/colorado-free-kn95-masks/

*. La Jara, CO 81140 Cortez Public Library 202 N Park Street, Cortez, CO 81321 Creede/Mineral Combined Library 450 Corsair Drive, Creede, CO 81130 *Denver Public Library* Multiple Locations: See full list here Durango Public Library 1900 East 3rd Avenue, Durango, CO 81301 Estes Valley Library

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## Final Rule for ARPA State and Local Funds: YES to Digital Inclusion Uses!

**By Amy Huffman**

> https://www.digitalinclusion.org/blog/2022/01/18/final-rule-for-arpa-state-and-local-funds-yes-to-d...

Denver, CO The City of Denver, with leadership from Denver Economic Development and Opportunity and *Denver Public Library*, used ARPA funds to purchase hundreds of Chromebooks and hotspots for the public library to circulate in three-month loan periods.

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### Checking Out: Mixed Company

**By Hannah Evans**  

Check out “Mixed Company” at your closest Denver Public Library location. Don’t forget to sign up for Winter of Reading! Winter of Reading is still going strong! Stop by Smiley, Woodbury, Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales, or your other favorite Denver Public Library location to pick up your brochure.

### All Ages Storytime with Desire (Video)


**Denver Public Library** | Video This article was posted online by Denver Public Library | Video. Spot On Colorado collects excepts of news articles from this source and add these in the ‘Denver Area’-category.

### 327-acre Medved ranch back on Denver market divided into parcels up to $25.7M (Photos)

https://muckrack.com/link/oa3qAD/327-acre-medved-ranch-back-on-denver-market-divided-into-parcels-u...

The home was built just 18 miles from downtown Denver on the site of Arapahoe East Ski Area, which operated from 1972 to 1984, according to Denver Public Library records. >Click through the gallery above to tour inside the main residence.

### Mini Baby Storytime with Lily (Video)


**Denver Public Library** | Video This article was posted online by Denver Public Library | Video. Spot On Colorado collects excepts of news articles from this source and add these in the ‘Denver
DPL Archive: The communion murder of 1908

By Esteban L. Hernandez, Kyle Harris, Nell London, Maggie Donahue

Denver Public Library/Western History Collection Officials transferred Alia to a jail in Colorado Springs, fearing the possibility of a lynch mob in Denver.

Diane Christman takes helm of The Cable Center | Light Reading

By Jeff Baumgartner
https://www.lightreading.com/cable-tech/diane-christman-takes-helm-of-the-cable-center-/a/d-id/7745...

"I hope the symposium will be in person," said Christman, who previously held leadership positions at a range of other non-profit organizations, such as The Denver Public Library, the Denver Dumb Friends League and the Lupus Foundation of America's Dallas-based north Texas chapter. "I miss people.

Highest-elevation points in metro Denver counties sit at some unexpected places:

How to get to the highest spots in Adams, Arapahoe, Jefferson, Denver, Douglas and more

By Ellis Arnold
http://parkerchronicle.net/stories/highest-elevation-points-denver-metro-area-counties,387173

Parts of that general area were annexed into Denver sometime in the 1970s, according to materials on the Denver Public Library's website. On the other end of Denver near its southeast edges, another high point sits near where Interstate 25 meets Belleview Avenue.
Highest-elevation points in metro Denver counties sit at some unexpected places: How to get to the highest spots in Adams, Arapahoe, Jefferson, Denver, Douglas and more

By Ellis Arnold

Parts of that general area were annexed into Denver sometime in the 1970s, according to materials on the Denver Public Library’s website. On the other end of Denver near its southeast edges, another high point sits near where Interstate 25 meets Belleview Avenue.

How three single parents have rearranged their lives in case schools go to remote learning again

By Nell London, Maggie Donahue, Esteban L. Hernandez, Desiree Mathurin

Groene-Nieto had been an employee at the Denver Public Library for a decade before taking a job in the Jefferson County Public Library system as the head of diversity and inclusion.

Get Free Tickets for Denver Museums & Attractions at the Public Library!

https://www.milehighmamas.com/blog/2022/01/10/get-free-tickets-for-denver-museums-attractions-at-th...
Denver Public Library Museum and Cultural Passes Library passes are offered in limited quantities by participating institutions. Many also offer free days and other low-cost options for community access. Reservations may be booked 2 weeks in advance. A library pass does not guarantee entry.

Announcing the 2022 Librarians' Day Schedule Live at StokerCon

http://raforall.blogspot.com/2022/01/announcing-2022-librarians-day-schedule.html

Collections through Horror Programming: moderated by HWA Library Committee Co-Chair, Konrad Stump and featuring Ben Rubin from the University of Pittsburgh’s Horror Studies Archive, Hillary Dodge from Pikes Peak Library District, Michael Allen Rose from the Oak Park Public Library, and librarians from the Denver Public Library. Listen to our panel of experts share their wide variety of successes at their different libraries from across the country.

Obituary: Dorothy Dever

By Obituaries Obituaries


In her retirement she volunteered for the Denver Public Libraries and tutored youth working towards GED certification. She wrote her own script. She is survived by her brother Richard T.

Willoughby: The quest for photographic memories of Aspen's past


The Denver Public Library has an excellent photo collection too. Before the Aspen Historical Society formed some old-time Aspen families donated their photos to either the State Historical Society or the Denver Public Library.
Willoughby: The quest for photographic memories of Aspen's past

https://muckrack.com/link/oaBE2y/willoughby-the-quest-for-photographic-memories-of-aspens-past

The Denver Public Library has an excellent photo collection too. Before the Aspen Historical Society formed some old-time Aspen families donated their photos to either the State Historical Society or the Denver Public Library.

Denver Loves Its Libraries

By Floyd Ciruli

http://fciruli.blogspot.com/2022/01/denver-loves-its-libraries.html

DPL Central Library Ciruli Associates, working with the city's head librarian Rick Ashton and the Denver Public Library's (DPL) team of managers, appointed directors, volunteers and donors, directed the campaign. The effort began in the late 1980s and culminated in a successful election in 1990.

Obituary: Dorothy Dever

https://muckrack.com/link/oa95tI/obituary-dorothy-dever

In her retirement she volunteered for the Denver Public Libraries and tutored youth working towards GED certification. She wrote her own script. She is survived by her brother Richard T.

Toddler Storytime with Elizabeth (Video)


Denver Public Library | Video This article was posted online by Denver Public Library | Video. Spot On Colorado collects excerpts of news articles from this source and add these in the 'Denver Area'-category.
Local libraries drop the fines and everything's going fine


"As institutions that are committed to equity, we're trying to remove barriers for the most vulnerable people in our community, so (dropping fines) helps with that," said Jeske, the executive director of the Denver Public Library in Colorado.

42 Ways to Explore Colorado in 2022

By Philip Clapham


This oasis of vegetation is the new front lawn to the latest branch of the Denver Public Library as well as the RedLine Contemporary Art Center's satellite operation, which has open-to-the-public artist studios.

Secrets of the Swan & Dolphin: Surprising Stories from Disney World's Most Unusual Hotels. | Theme Park Tourist

By Brian Krosnick

https://www.themeparktourist.com/features/20211230/32152/secrets-swan-dolphin-surprising-stories-di...

Image: Disney, via D23 Emphasizing colorful facades and playful style, Grave's most iconic post-modern works are probably the Portland Building (1982) and the Denver Public Library (1995).

Outdoor and virtual things to do in Denver during COVID winter 2022

By Desiree Mathurin, Andrew Kenney, Kyle Harris, Paolo Zialcita

https://denverite.com/2021/12/30/things-to-do-in-denver-to-stay-
Denver Public Library is finally (mostly) open. But if you’re more comfortable browsing from home, you can still reserve books online to pick up curbside.

**All Ages Storytime with Charlotte (Video)**


Denver Public Library Video

This article was posted online by Denver Public Library Video. Spot On Colorado collects excerpts of news articles from this source and add these in the 'Denver Area'-category.

**Here's what it means to celebrate the African holiday Kwanzaa**

By Lacey Latch, Pueblo Chieftain

https://www.chieftain.com/story/lifestyle/2021/12/29/heres-what-means-celebrate-african-holiday-kwa...

With their original Kwanzaa celebrations disrupted by the pandemic for the second year in a row, Evans said that the Denver Public Library has again taken the holiday virtual.

**Mini Baby Storytime with Katie (Video)**


Denver Public Library Video

This article was posted online by Denver Public Library Video. Spot On Colorado collects excerpts of news articles from this source and add these in the 'Denver Area'-category.
### What's on top of Denver's Central library? We climbed to find out.

By Esteban L. Hernandez, Kevin Beaty, Kyle Harris, Desiree Mathurin


Jeff Riley, executive director of the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation, told us a bunch of load-bearing columns will soon be removed with the help of robots, and a large section of the ceiling will be removed.

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### Twenty Things to Do for Free in Denver This Week

https://www.westword.com/arts/denver-free-things-to-do-for-free-end-december-2021-new-year-2022-130...

.., online The Denver Public Library branches will be celebrating Kwanzaa with a series of events highlighting the seven principles of Kwanzaa: Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity)

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### Toddler Storytime with Wendy (Video)


Denver Public Library | Video This article was posted online by Denver Public Library | Video. Spot On Colorado collects excerpts of news articles from this source and add these in the 'Denver Area'-category.

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### William Wright "Bill" Holman

https://muckrack.com/link/oJ2H5c/william-wright-bill-holman

He spent many hours walking to and from the Denver Public Libraries, and was delighted when he found a book he desired, in a Large Print edition. He was a lifelong fan of the Nebraska Cornhuskers and the St. Louis Cardinals and more recently the Denver Broncos and Kansas City Royals.

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New documentary tells the story of ski race held just weeks after Germany’s surrender in World War II

By John Meyer

Kavar previously had been to Colorado on research missions, visiting the Denver Public Library and the Colorado Snowsports Museum in Vail to learn more about the 10th. At the museum, Kavar saw Anthony’s “Climb to Glory.”

Here’s how you can celebrate Kwanzaa this year

By Desiree Mathurin
https://www.rmpbs.org/blogs/news/the-best-is-yet-to-come-heres-how-you-can-celebrate-kwanzaa-this-y...

December 28 – Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)
Celebrate Kwanzaa with Denver Public Library – 1 p.m.

‘The best is yet to come’: Here’s how you can celebrate Kwanzaa this year

By Desiree Mathurin
https://www.longmontleader.com/regional-news/the-best-is-yet-to-come-heres-how-you-can-celebrate-kw...

December 28 – Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)
Celebrate Kwanzaa with Denver Public Library – 1 p.m.

A ski race like no other; New documentary tells story of event held just weeks after Germany's surrender

https://muckrack.com/link/oJtyhM/a-ski-race-like-no-other-new-documentary-tells-story-of-event-held...

Kavar previously had been to Colorado on research missions,
visiting the Denver Public Library and the Colorado Snowsports Museum in Vail to learn more about the 10th. At the museum, Kavar saw Anthony's "Climb to Glory."

New documentary tells the story of ski race held just weeks after Germany's surrender in World War II

https://muckrack.com/link/oJ2KKg/new-documentary-tells-the-story-of-ski-race-held-just-weeks-after-

Kavar previously had been to Colorado on research missions, visiting the Denver Public Library and the Colorado Snowsports Museum in Vail to learn more about the 10th. At the museum, Kavar saw Anthony's "Climb to Glory."

'The best is yet to come’: How you can celebrate Kwanzaa in Denver this year

By Desiree Mathurin

https://sentinelcolorado.com/news/metro/the-best-is-yet-to-come-how-you-can-celebrate-kwanzaa-in-de-

December 28 – Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)
Celebrate Kwanzaa with Denver Public Library – 1 p.m.

Denver celebrates Kwanzaa with parade, dance, new Kinara

By David Heitz

https://original.newsbreak.com/@david-heitz-561257/2468894556876-denver-celebrates-kwanzaa-with-par-

To help people learn more about Kwanzaa, the Denver Public Library offers a virtual Zoom series to discuss some of the principles, including: "Founded in 1966 by Dr.
NONPROFIT REGISTER | Library to host virtual celebrations of Kwanzaa

DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY Denver News: Kwanzaa, an African American and pan-African celebration of family, community and culture, this year runs from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1.

‘The best is yet to come’: Here’s how you can celebrate Kwanzaa this year

By Desiree Mathurin

December 28 – Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)
Celebrate Kwanzaa with Denver Public Library – 1 p.m.

Mini Baby Storytime with Laura (Video)

December 22 – Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)
Celebrate Kwanzaa with Denver Public Library – 1 p.m.

Denver Public Library's Mission To Nourish Young Minds and Bodies

By Anna Sutterer

Anna Sutterer • Colorado Parent

The Healthy Food for Denver’s Kids snack program at Denver Public Library branches serves food to Denver youth experiencing food insecurity—with no eligibility requirements or proof of residence required.
'The best is yet to come': Here's how you can celebrate Kwanzaa this year
By Desiree Mathurin, Rebecca Spiess, Matt Bloom, Esteban L. Hernandez

December 28 — Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)
Celebrate Kwanzaa with Denver Public Library — 1 p.m.

Toddler Storytime with Zach (Video)

All Ages Storytime with Lisa (Video)

CNN's Alisyn Camerota shares her linguine in white clam sauce recipe. Watch how to make it
By Kristen Rogers

This part of the custom might also have roots in Roman Catholic Italians' fast from meat (but not fish) before taking communion during Midnight Mass on Christmas Day, the feast day, according to the [Denver Public Library](https://www.denverlibrary.org/).
Checking Out: Smoke Hole: Looking to the Wild in the Time of the Spyglass

By Hannah Evans

https://www.denvernorthstar.com/checking-out-smoke-hole-looking-to-the-wild-in-the-time-of-the-spyg...

Check out “Smoke Hole: Looking to the Wild in the Time of the Spyglass” at your closest Denver Public Library location. Winter of Reading is back for 2022! Denver Public Library’s adult reading program, Winter of Reading, is back!

Toddler Storytime With Ms. Rachel (Video)


Denver Public Library | Video This article was posted online by Denver Public Library | Video. Spot On Colorado collects excerpts of news articles from this source and add these in the 'Denver Area'-category.

Denver Arts & Venues Announces 2021-2022 P.S. You Are Here Grantees

By Stephi Wild


Art Students League of Denver, The Flagpole Project, 350 years of Denver: a collection of flags located at Denver Public Library branches, city parks, and North, South, East and West public high schools, inspired by 350 years of Denver and Colorado history.

With eyes on Union Station, how has Denver handled other high-crime areas?

By Steve Staeger

https://www.9news.com/article/news/local/next/union-station-denver-drugs-illegal-activity/73-1ca823...

Across the street, the Denver Public Library’s main branch has made several changes after very public problems with drug use, also in 2016.
### Pony Up: The Story Behind The Yearling
*By Emily Ferguson*

*The Yearling* was originally destined for a site in New York City, but instead was corralled at a spot outside the Central Denver Public Library through a combination of complaints and cash.

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### DPL Archive: The time Denver fell under "Satanic Panic"
*By Esteban L. Hernandez, Rebecca Spiess, Matt Bloom, Kevin Beaty*

In 1975, cattle farmers in Elbert County southeast of Denver began finding gashes on their cows and a subversive Denver comedian saw an opportunity to cash in.

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<th>Denverite</th>
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<td>Dec. 12, 2021, 9:15 a.m.</td>
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### Cuentacuentos con Chufo (Video)

*Denver Public Library* | Video

This article was posted online by Denver Public Library | Video. Spot On Colorado collects excepts of news articles from this source and add these in the 'Denver Area'-category.

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### New report finds huge disparities in how services are provided to crime victims of color in Colorado
*By Mike Littwin, Tatiana Flowers*

<table>
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<th>MEDIA OUTLET</th>
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Huggins' son, Tayvion Washington, was killed in July 2020 in a drive-by shooting near a Denver Public Library branch. Tayvion had just from graduated high school before he was pronounced dead at Denver Health on July 6.

We spent 18 hours at Union Station. Here's everything we saw and heard.
By Desiree Mathurin, Rebecca Spiess, Matt Bloom, Esteban L. Hernandez
https://denverite.com/2021/12/10/we-spent-18-hours-at-union-station-heres-everything-we-saw-and-hea...

He also said he appreciated how the Denver Public Library has social workers on staff who can help people connect with services they need. He worries that too many people who are sleeping at Union Station don't know about the resources available to them. 11 a.m.

Groups urge Denver and RTD to make decisions about Denver Union Station founded in compassion and dignity
https://denverstreetspartnership.org/denver-union-station-safety/

Additionally, Denver agencies like Denver Public Libraries and the Denver Department of Parks and Recreation are doing great work of their own that can be a model for transit stations as well.

Learn more about this data on muckrack.com.