STRONG
LIBRARY
STRONG
COMMUNITY

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

denverlibrary.org
Dear Library Community,

The Denver Public Library, like all of us, has faced challenges navigating the new global landscape over the past two years. In 2021, we were able to celebrate some milestones and wins while keeping health and safety top of mind. Without your continued support, we could not do the work we do. Together, alongside you, our community, we look forward to emerging stronger than ever because we know a strong library leads to a strong community.

In March 2021, we started reopening our branch locations to the public almost a year after we were forced to close due to the pandemic. In July, we were able to open part of the first floor of the Central Library on a limited basis while it remains under construction. We were thrilled to welcome customers back.

We also found time for some fun. We celebrated Bear Valley Branch Library’s 50th anniversary and Ross-Broadway Branch Library’s 70th anniversary. Like all of our locations, these branches are cornerstones of their neighborhoods.

A diverse slate of virtual programming continued and some in-person programming came back over time. We also had a great time engaging with our communities through our annual Winter of Reading and Summer of Adventure programs.

In late summer we released our new Strategic Roadmap, which is rooted in our mission, vision, and values. The Strategic Roadmap will help us ensure that the library is a place that welcomes community in our spaces but also meets our diverse communities where they are, reimagines our spaces to reflect community use, and ensures we focus on the well-being of internal staff culture while remaining responsible stewards of public funds.

We look forward to welcoming you back to our locations and sharing our progress with you over the next year.

Sincerely,

Michelle Jeske
City Librarian

Cathy Lucas
President, Denver Public Library Commission
VISION
A strong community where everyone thrives.

MISSION
Together, we create welcoming spaces where all are free to explore and connect.

VALUES

WELCOMING: We make our resources, services, and expertise accessible for all, recognize the inherent dignity in each person, and provide safe places where everyone can be themselves.

CURIOSITY: We foster a culture of exploration, innovation, and forward thinking by creating environments that support learning and growth.

CONNECTION: We are neighbors. We foster relationships, listen, and act to build and strengthen our community. We bring people together to share information, ideas, and experiences.

EQUITY: We work to change inequitable practices, structures, policies, and attitudes that drive them, to provide opportunities for every person in our community to thrive. As we do so, we actively examine our roles in perpetuating oppressive systems.

STEWARDSHIP: We are accountable to our community, using our resources responsibly. We lead with honesty and integrity, protect privacy, and preserve and share the full history of our Denver community.

Commission
President, Cathy Lucas
Vice President, Sonya Ulibarri
Secretary, Laurie Mathews
Jehan Benton-Clark
Savinay Chandrasekhar
Carlos Martinez
Michael Niyompong

Executive Team
City Librarian, Michelle Jeske
Central Library Administrator, Rachel Fewell
Director of Neighborhood Services, Annie Kemmerling
Director of Collections, Technology, and Strategy, Zeth Lietzau
Director of Finance and Facilities, Amber Lindberg
Director of Communications and Community Engagement, Erika R. Martinez
Manager of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Ozy Aloziem
## Program Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Virtual Programs</th>
<th>Virtual Attendance</th>
<th>In-Person Programs</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>General Adult Programs</strong></td>
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<td>Book &amp; Film Discussions/Author Talks</td>
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<td>Educational</td>
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<td><strong>Digital Inclusion</strong></td>
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<td>ideaLAB Workshops</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>123</td>
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<td>Technology Programs (system wide)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Tech Help Appointments (system wide)</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>152</td>
<td>153</td>
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<td><strong>Older Adult Services</strong></td>
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<td>iBook &amp; Film Discussions/Author Talks</td>
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<td>444</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Wellness/Self-Improvement</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>3,038</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts/Crafts/Hobbies</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>697</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>Misc./More Fun Stuff</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2,002</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing/Storytelling</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memory Cafe/Alzheimer’s and Dementia</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>158</td>
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<td><strong>Totals:</strong></td>
<td>226</td>
<td>6,785</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>583</td>
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<td><strong>Cultural Inclusivity</strong></td>
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<td>Spanish Services</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>191</td>
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<td>Hispanic Heritage Month</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Spanish Services from different budgets)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>566</td>
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<td>Cultural Exchange</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>228</td>
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<td>Career Online High School</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>225</td>
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<td><strong>Totals:</strong></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1,210</td>
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### Cultural Exchange Self-Directed Programs and Outreach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th># Distributed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dia Del Nino Kits</td>
<td>725</td>
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<tr>
<td>Backpacks to Newly Resettled Refugee Families</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taste of Culture Outreach Activity Bags</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taste of Culture Food Vouchers</td>
<td>40</td>
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## PROGRAM REPORT

### Plaza

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Virtual Programs</th>
<th>Virtual Attendance</th>
<th>In-Person Programs</th>
<th>In-Person Attendance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Person Plaza Programs</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>161</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online English Conversation Groups</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>1,591</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Citizenship Study Groups and Legal Help</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>690</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Homework Help</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virtual/Phone Appointments</td>
<td>3,622</td>
<td>376</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Plaza Totals:</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,035</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,345</strong></td>
<td><strong>399</strong></td>
<td><strong>161</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Programs: 5,320

### Total Attendance: 18,774

### Virtual vs. In-Person Totals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Virtual</th>
<th>In Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programs:</td>
<td>4,738</td>
<td>16,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance:</td>
<td>2,190</td>
<td>2,190</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Winter of Reading

- Programs: 12 programs
- Completion - English: 419
- Completion - Spanish: 765
- Completion - Vietnamese: 0
- Total Completion: 1,184

### Summer of Adventure

- Total Registration: 8,524
- Maker Challenge: 388 entries
- SOA The Prequel: 4,377 page views
- Craft Kits: See youth programs
- Summer Meals: 5,000 distributed

### Youth Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Virtual</th>
<th>In Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book Explorers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Book Explorers Club</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Explorers Take Home Kits</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Explorers Blog Views</td>
<td>14,574</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dungeons &amp; Dragons (Teen)</td>
<td>1,008</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Read Aloud</td>
<td>5,840</td>
<td>611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversion</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little University</td>
<td>752</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LENA Start</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storytime</td>
<td>27,849</td>
<td>7,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>51,106</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,110</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total YouTube Views: 99,626
Each year the American Library Association (ALA) celebrates National Library Outreach Day to recognize bookmobiles and library workers across the country who provide library access and outreach to their communities. The Denver Public Library's own bookmobiles have a long history of serving Denver. From “A rubber-tired library” to “Public Library auto trailer” to “Traveling Branch” and “Reading Rocket,” here's a glimpse into the evolution of DPL's bookmobiles.

Beginning in 1930, our “rubber-tired library” hit the streets of Denver to reach out to communities without library service. Different types of vehicles came on board over the years. Of particular note was the 1950s-era bookmobile known as “Gerstenslager, Bookmobile King.” This was a specific production vehicle that came from the passing of the 1956 Library Services Act. Gerstenslager originally created stagecoaches but made a shift to create a lineup of vans and trucks utilized by fire departments, libraries, and even the Oscar Meyer Weinermobile. Gerstenslager bookmobiles, or as some libraries nicknamed them, “Gertie,” were individually custom painted by Gerstenslager in the factory to each specific library’s name and branding design.

“A rubber-tired library”
In 1969, an issue of the West Side Recorder, a monthly West Denver newspaper, highlighted the bookmobile’s summer schedule in the neighborhood. The paper refers to the vehicle as, “A Special Bookmobile - ‘El Numero Cinco.’” The stops specifically focused on providing Spanish language books and family friendly programs. The article also mentions fines: “The overdue charge for materials from bookmobiles is five cents per week.” This is roughly $.39 in today’s economy. Luckily, DPL eliminated overdue fines in 2019.

Fast forward to the Janus sponsored Reading Rocket era of DPL’s bookmobile in 2010. The artwork on the vehicle features the illustrations of Nate Williams. This design made him one of ten winners of the HOW 2010 Logo Design Awards. The colorful, outer space themed design brought the bookmobile light years ahead of its earlier hand painted lettering designs.

Today, in the basement loading dock of the Central Library, you will find the current fleet of DPL bookmobiles: one large truck and two Sprinter vans. Each vehicle is equipped with WiFi, a great selection of materials to check out, and the always friendly Mobile Services staff. Today’s bookmobiles reach every corner of the city conducting outreach, visiting older adult facilities and schools, giving away free books, setting up shop at food banks, and so much more to meet the community where they are.
When Dom Barrera and Felipe Vieyra took a backpacking trip, they didn’t think it would spark a business idea. As outdoor enthusiasts, they got tired of eating the bland dehydrated food typically found at most outdoor stores. During the trip, they longed for and bonded over the realization that they both enjoyed the same home cooked Mexican meals despite growing up in two different places. Dom is from Colorado, and Felipe is from Michoacan, Mexico. Along with their business partners, Connor Lawrence and Marcos Vieyra, Oso Adventure Meals was formed through friendship, food, and a fondness for the outdoors.

Oso Adventure Meals is a startup business with a great mission to disrupt the status quo and make the outdoors more accessible to communities of color. The founders utilized BizBoost at Denver Public Library to help launch their company. Dom, one of the cofounders of Oso Adventure Meals, sat down to talk with us about his experience.

When did you realize the need for more diverse food in the outdoor world, and what caused you to act on it?

Me, I’m half Black and Latino, and our founders are Latino. From our personal experience, we primarily see meals [in the outdoor industry] that didn’t represent our own backgrounds.
I remember going on my first backpack trip, it was beef stroganoff, and it was not good. And at that moment I realized there wasn't food for diverse folks in that space. So I thought, “Let's find a way to bring more diversity to the mountains.” And to act on it, we really just brought it up with a few people and started a Kickstarter, and that's when we realized it can be a real thing.

**How did you hear about BizBoost, and what did you learn along the way?**

Another entrepreneur friend shared it with us. We looked it up, and that's how I found out. In our appointment, we learned about market size. It was really cool and helpful. They did an hour [of research prior] and literally had everything ready. It was kind of intense. The librarian shared basic reports and how to access them all online. It was super cool, and it helped out with our Kickstarter fundraising effort.

**Any words for other small businesses thinking of using BizBoost?**

It was a great experience. I would have used it earlier had I known about it. It was really helpful, and at the library, it's all accessible and free. We looked at the national market, but really focused on Colorado. It was cool to have access to valuable information and the expertise of the librarian, who knew their stuff inside and out.

Oso Adventure Meals officially launched in early 2022. They currently use a direct to consumer model, selling meals through their website, with plans to have their products available in a retail space. Check them out at osomeals.com or on Instagram and Facebook @osoadventuremeals.

To book a BizBoost appointment, visit denlib.org/bizboost
FINANCIALS
**2021 Volunteerism**

**Total Volunteer Hours** 18,471
- Staff Aides (Branches & Central)
  - Technology (i.e., ideaLAB) 1,733
- Home Delivery 336
- Plaza Programming 200

**Denver Public Library Financials**
(as of 3/1/22)

- **Total Revenue**
  - $47,698,085.33
  - $239,266.13
  - Grants - State & Federal
  - $1,898,594.08
  - Donations, Transfers, Misc.
  - $45,560,225.12
  - City General Funds

- **Total Expenditures**
  - $46,969,663.33
  - $36,807,510.72
  - Staff Salaries & Expenditures
  - $6,065,834.58
  - Library Materials
  - $821,905.53
  - Library Programs
  - $1,429,569.29
  - Technology
  - $1,844,843.21
  - Administration & Other
Statement of Financial Position

$13,953,540
Total Assets
$1,423,042
Cash & Cash Equivalents
$2,521,911
Pledges & Accounts Receivable
$10,008,587
Endowment

$13,953,540
Total Liabilities & Net Assets
$747,429
Liabilities
$11,224,507
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions
$1,981,604
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions

Statement of Activities

$5,072,797
Total Revenue
$3,430,045
Contributions & Support
$985,642
Investment Return
$583,246
Events & Book Sales
$73,864
Donated Services & Facilities

$6,320,997
Total Expenses
$1,546,931
Distributions to the Library for Programs
$3,600,000
Distributions for Central Renovations
$309,730
Other Library Program Assistance
$864,336
Supporting Services

All Foundation financial information is derived from the audited financial statements, which are available, along with the 990, at dplfriends.org.
2021 DISTRIBUTIONS TO DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

$5,146,931

Central Branch Renovations $3,600,000

Youth Services $345,505

Cultural Inclusivity Services $279,549

Special Collections & Digital Archives $275,991

Community Engagement & Outreach $211,570

Collection Development $166,531

Adult & Older Adult Services $111,348

Branch Services $96,240

Technology & Digital Inclusion $45,197
Dear Friends,

While 2020 felt like the year of closings, we hope to remember 2021 as the year of openings. Even though our community still experienced some shutdowns and restrictions due to the pandemic, Denver Public Library and the Friends Foundation were excited to celebrate the reopenings of branch locations and the return to being in person for some of our favorite events, like the Booklovers Ball and the Holiday Lighting Party.

As you look through the pages of this annual report, we hope you see how grateful we are for our community. For those of you who used our branches or mobile services, engaged with us online, and/or supported the Friends Foundation in any capacity, thank you! You gave us much to celebrate even during a challenging time. Highlights include:

- Providing $5.1 million in distributions to Denver Public Library, including $3.6 million to the Central Library renovation.

- Welcoming 570 of you to the Denver Botanic Gardens for Booklovers Ball: Booklovers in Bloom, which raised over $400,000, a record breaking amount.

- Establishing a community Task Force to examine the resources and structure needed for Denver Public Library to achieve its vision for the future. The Task Force of 22 members met five times over six months and made recommendations regarding governance and funding.

- Supporting the library’s purchase of books, materials, and resources for circulation; programming for all ages; the development of Western History & Genealogy and other special collections; emergency relief fund for library staff; services for refugees and immigrants, and more.

In 2022, we anticipate even more openings and celebrations – from the new Bob Ragland Branch Library in the RiNo ArtPark Community Hub to the Children’s Library at the Central Library to the 25th Anniversary Booklovers Ball. We hope you will join us as we honor the strength our community showed during the pandemic and prepare for all we have to look forward to in the future.

Yours very truly,

Jeff Riley
Executive Director

Amy Brimah
Chair, Board of Trustees, 2021
The Denver Public Library Friends Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that enriches our community by building support and fundraising to enhance the services and programs of Denver Public Library. Primary operations include direct fundraising with individuals, corporations, and foundations; membership; used book sales; events; advocacy, and endowment management. Through its fundraising, volunteerism, and advocacy work, the Foundation has served as an important philanthropic partner to the library since 1940.

**Staff**

*Executive Director,* Jeff Riley  
*Director of Philanthropy – Corporate Relations,* Nicole Capage-Brown  
*Director of Finance & Accounting,* Amy Daley  
*Manager of Philanthropy – Used Book Sales,* Andrea Hamilton  
*Manager of Philanthropy – Database and Membership,* Charlie McTavish  
*Philanthropy Specialist,* Monica Yori Peritt  
*Philanthropy Specialist – Used Book Sales,* Huong Tran  
*Manager of Philanthropy – Special Events,* Sandra Tucker  
*Director of Philanthropy – Individual & Planned Giving,* Marshall Wallach

**Board of Trustees**

*Chair,* Amy Brimah  
*Vice Chair,* Laurie Troge  
*Immediate Past Chair,* Deb DeMuth  
*Secretary,* Ronald Tomassi  
*Treasurer,* Andy Bishop  
*Judy Allender,* Patricia Lepiani  
*Gay Cook,* Akash Madiah  
*Mark Ferrandino,* Bob Sarlo  
*Keo Frazier,* Brittany Morris Saunders  
*Chris Hand,* Cathy Schwartz  
*Matt Hanson,* Jon Underkofler  
*Pam Jewett,* Lisa M. Vela  
*Emily King Marshall,* Susie Willson  
*April Lambatos,* Donald A. Yale
Reuniting in Person with Our Friends
The Friends Foundation was excited to welcome back supporters to in person events throughout the year. Here's where we saw you in 2021.

Booklovers in Bloom
As renovations continued at the Central Library, the Friends Foundation took the Booklovers Ball, one of Denver's most anticipated fundraising events, to the Denver Botanic Gardens on September 10, 2021. With 570 in attendance, the event raised more than $400,000, a record breaking total. Immersed in the beautiful gardens and underneath the summer stars, attendees enjoyed library stories of impact, a poetry reading from spoken word poet Franklin Cruz, and a musical performance from Raquel Garcia. GH Phipps was the presenting sponsor, and honorary chairs were Rick M. Garcia and Loretta P. Martinez, Esq., as well as Jim and Allison Johnson.

Holiday Lighting Party
Although the pandemic forced the Friends Foundation to cancel the 2020 Holiday Lighting Party, 225 supporters joined us December 1, 2021, on the seventh floor outdoor terrace of the Denver Art Museum to view the holiday lights at the Denver City and County Building. After sipping on warm drinks in Denver's chilly winter air, attendees also had the opportunity to privately view the museum's Western Art collection. Thanks to Cathy Schwartz and Phil Cernanec for “flipping the switch” to officially light the City and County Building that evening. If you’d like to attend the holiday lighting party, a gift of $250 or more guarantees an invitation to this annual event.

Pop-Up Book Sales
With renovations underway at the Central Library where large book sales are normally held, the Friends Foundation team took its bookselling business on the road, holding pop up used book sales at four locations – the Park Hill Yard Sale, the Cherry Creek Sidewalk Sale, the Bob Ragland branch, and the Cherry Creek Holiday Market. Approximately 2,500 adult and children's books were sold with proceeds supporting Denver Public Library.
Memorial Gifts
In Memory Of:

Shirley Amore
Viviana Casillas
Rachelle Naishhtut
Michael William Barrow
Barbara Barrow
Lillian Benson
Linda & AJ Batt
Don Bohning
Larry Bohning & Marie Fitzpatrick
Warren T. Bond
Patricia Stranahan
Gloria Burtin
Sheila Smith
Maria Casillas (Rodela)
Viviana Casillas
Mollie Cook
Elizabeth Cook
Francis P. Curran
Diann Brochu
Ernest Doiel
Melinda Allfrey
Bruce Ducker
Bob Nelson
H. Benjamin Duke Jr.
Laurie & Ben Duke
Barbara Dygert
Kathleen Chain
Barbara Shandera
Jack & Sulamit Lisa Gabow
Lori Meredith Gabow
Oswald & Anne Gaub
Terry Gaub & Linda Steves
Mr. Seth Goldstein
Phyllis Searles
Peter Grant
Marco & Cathy Abarca
Donald K. Bain
Charlotte & Robert Baron
Leo J. Boyle
Barbara Gill
Josiah Hatch
Penny & Dick Leather
Mr. & Mrs. Edward C. Nichols
Caroline & Joe Rassenfoss
David Tryba
G. Travis White
Donald Yale & Jody Epstein
Carol Tierney Griesemer
Nancy Hall Chase & Bradford W. Chase
Laurie & Ben Duke
Ms. Holmes Flint
Suzanne & Vince Lanuza
William Lawrence & Sybil Holland
Ann & Hal Logan
Harold & Claudia Stowe
Susan & Bill Tracy
Andrew Wetmore
Jon & Kathy Zeschin
Oliver Hazin
Katherine Jarvis
Marlyn Heller
Donald Yale & Jody Epstein
Gerald Himelgrin
Randi Himelgrin & Austin Pfenning
Beatrice Horovitz
Harry & Lillian Hoffman
Sue Jorgensen
Sarah Olsen
David S. Kletter
E Kletter
Trudy Krontoff
Peggy & Jeff Morse
Jerry Kopel
Dolores Kopel
A. G. LaMunyon
Lisa LaMunyon
Jackie & Edward Lewin
Marlene Kagen
Sue Bitman Lubeck
Alan Gass
Diana Lyford
Aon Denver
Michelle & Gary DeFrange
Vena Flax
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fuller
Mr. & Mrs. George C. Gibson
Cathy Groene
Kathleen & Andrew Morrissey
Lisa & Jonathan Perlmutter
The University Club
Judith Wolter
Vivian McCullough
Katherine Draeger
Lauren Necochea
Jane & Jack North
Barbara Rickord
Nancy Van Dyke-Dickison
Robert & Virginia Wiepking
Robin McGehee
Robert McKenzie
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- Children’s Museum of Denver
- Colorado Mammoth
- Lacrosse
- Colorado Rapids Soccer Club
- Colorado Symphony Conflict Center
- Cottonwood Institute
- Sue & Tim Damour
- Denver Art Museum
- Denver Botanic Gardens
- Denver Museum of Nature & Science
- Denver Zoological Gardens
- Generation Wild
- Molly Brown House
- Gina Mooney
- Museum of Contemporary Art Denver
- National Western Stock Show
- Pizzeria Locale
- Noel Simmons

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720.865.1111

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1498 N. Irving St. 80204
720.865.2370

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720.865.0145

Smiley
4501 W. 46th Ave. 80212
720.865.0260

John “Thunderbird Man” Emhoolah, Jr.
675 Santa Fe Dr. 80204
720.865.0160

Woodbury
3265 Federal Blvd. 80211
720.865.0930

NORTHEAST
Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library
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720.865.2401

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(opened April 2022)
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