2022 ANNUAL REPORT

THRIVE
Dear Library Community,

This is an exciting time to be part of Denver Public Library. We believe that a strong library helps create a strong community and thanks to Denver voters and you, our supporters, we have a lot in the works to make our library even stronger.

We reached several major milestones in 2022, and the headline for the year was definitely the passing of measure 2i in November, providing DPL with an additional $32 million a year. This was an effort that was years in the making and is a big win for the library system and our community. The additional funding will allow the library to more fully meet the evolving needs of the community. Stay tuned, we will share updates about how DPL is using this funding under the name Strong Library, Strong Denver, supported by the Denver Public Library Fund.

We opened our 27th location in February, the Bob Ragland Branch Library, located in the ArtPark Community Hub. We also reached major milestones for several bond projects that are happening across the system. We welcomed the community to our new, reimagined Children's Library at Central Library in April, and the renovation of the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library kicked off in May.

The doors to our locations were fully back open in 2022, and we were thrilled to welcome our customers in to connect, to explore our spaces, and to utilize our incredible services and programs. Thank you for your continued support and be sure to come visit us soon.

Sincerely,

Michelle Jeske
City Librarian

Cathy Lucas
President, Denver Public Library Commission
DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

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
Zi Chong
Michael Niyompong
Cedric Buchanon
Patty Salazar
Jehan Benton-Clark

Executive Team

City Librarian, Michelle Jeske
Chief of Staff, Dustin Kress
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 Human Resources, Karen Lam
Director of Communications and Community Engagement, Erika R. Martinez
IMPACT
## 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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<td><strong>Adult Programs</strong></td>
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<td>Writing/Storytelling</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<td><strong>Older Adult Services</strong></td>
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<td>Authors/Books</td>
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<td>Denver Housing Authority/Innovage</td>
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<td>Creative Aging/Art Journaling/Concerts</td>
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<td>Health and Wellness/Medical Information</td>
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<td>Memory Cafe/Dementia</td>
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<td>Spanish Services</td>
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<td>Spanish Services (Weekly Book club)</td>
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<td>Hispanic Heritage Month</td>
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<td>(Spanish Services form diff budgets)</td>
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<td>Cultural Exchange</td>
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<td>CI Totals:</td>
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<td>142</td>
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## PROGRAM REPORT

### Plaza

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<th>Programs</th>
<th>Virtual Programs</th>
<th>Virtual Attendance</th>
<th>In-Person Programs</th>
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<td>Online English Conversation Groups</td>
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<td>Online Citizenship Study Groups and Legal Help</td>
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<td>Virtual/Phone Appointments</td>
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<td><strong>Plaza Totals:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>6,022</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Virtual vs. In-Person Totals:</strong></td>
<td><strong>826</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,841</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,783</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,620</strong></td>
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<td>Total Programs:</td>
<td>3,609</td>
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<td>22,461</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Attendance:</td>
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</table>

### Winter of Reading

- **5 programs** | 345 total attendance

- Completion - English: 981
- Completion - Spanish: 46
- Completion - Vietnamese: 5
- Completion - Arabic: 3
- Total Completion: 1,035

### Summer of Adventure

- Total Registration: 10,835
- Maker Challenge: 280 entries
- SOA The Prequel: 3,263 page views
- Craft Kits: See youth programs
- Summer Meals: 3,800 distributed

### Cultural Exchange Self-Directed Programs and Outreach

- Dia Del Nino Guiro Kits: 135
- Backpacks to Newly Resettled Refugee Families: 120
- Lunar New Year Treasure Hunt: 430
- Community Heritage Quilt (AANHPI): 100
- Haiku Poetry: 235
- Lantern: 220
- Origami: 220
- Pinwheels for peace: 450
- Fingerprint Peace Dove: 6
- Dia Del Nino Activity Books: 525
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Virtual Programs</th>
<th>Virtual Attendance</th>
<th>In-Person Programs</th>
<th>In-Person Attendance</th>
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<td>Early Learning</td>
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<td>Read Aloud</td>
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<td>113,050</td>
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<td>Little University</td>
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<td>~90</td>
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<td>Storytime</td>
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<td>17,509</td>
<td>~1,700</td>
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<td>Early Learning Totals:</td>
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<td>School-Age (K-5) Services</td>
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<td>Afterschool Is Cool</td>
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<td>Book Clubs</td>
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<td>Arts and Crafts</td>
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<td>STEM</td>
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<td>School Age Totals:</td>
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<td>Teen Services</td>
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<td>Teen Totals:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer of Adventure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registrations</td>
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<td>Completions</td>
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<td>The Journey - page views</td>
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<td>3,263</td>
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<td>Maker Challenge entries</td>
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<td>Outdoor Movies</td>
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<td>Family Excursions</td>
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<td>Summer Meals</td>
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<td>Summer of Adventure Totals:</td>
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<td>3,543</td>
<td>18,627</td>
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Total YouTube Views 83,171
Denver Public Library's Career Online High School (COHS) has been a transformative program for community members who want to thrive and create opportunities for themselves. COHS is an online high school diploma and career certification program. This program offers free enrollment to a limited number of qualified adult students and is made possible by the Denver Public Library, Denver Human Services, the Colorado State Library, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Denver Public Library offering a program like COHS is only one half of the equation, since it is really on students to embark on the journey to graduate. During the spring 2023 COHS graduation ceremony, the emcee for the occasion was COHS Alumni, Mayra Bustamante. Mayra graduated from COHS in 2017, which paved the way for her continued education and success. We chatted with Mayra to learn more about her journey in school and beyond.

Viviana Casillas (left), Career Online High School Program Administrator and COHS Alumni Mayra Bustamante

continued
How did you find out about COHS and what motivated you to enroll?
I found out that my Colorado State High School diploma was not credentialed and that my graduation wasn’t registered with the Department of Education. I was at Green Valley Ranch Branch Library and saw a poster for COHS and wanted to learn more. At first, I was very hesitant about it, but then I reached out and got in contact with Viviana Casillas (Manager of COHS). I shared with Viviana my whole experience, all the money I spent getting the diploma and it being invalid, and also my goals in continuing my education.

Being in school has always been a big time commitment and has its own demands along with all the things going on in life. How has this program worked for you along with having to care for a family and also work full time?
I think the flexibility of it being online. You’re able to work on it at your own pace, with a few exceptions, and finish a semester every two weeks. Being able to do it on my own time, was the best part of it all.

Upon receiving her COHS diploma and an associate degree with Community College of Denver, Mayra enrolled with Metropolitan State University (MSU) to receive her Bachelor’s in Elementary Education. She graduated in December 2022.

What made you pursue elementary education and become a kindergarten teacher?
The fact that being Hispanic, we don’t have a lot of Hispanic teachers and representation in schools, and looking at our communities we have a lot of Hispanic students we serve. Growing up myself I would have probably done a lot better in school if there was a teacher that looked like me and knew my cultural background and experiences. I wanted to be a similar face to other students.

How was it being the emcee and sharing your story at this past COHS graduation?
It was definitely an amazing experience, very emotional especially being the emcee of the program that gave me the opportunity to get my diploma and to see that they’re still helping people with stories similar to mine. It was also a great experience seeing this graduation was an all women graduating class, it was a little more empowering. At that moment, me being a single mom, and having kids, as a woman, we always want to better ourselves for our kids to show them that it’s never too late to do something with your life and change your education.

Mayra does have plans to be at another COHS graduation, not as a student, or alumni emcee, and not just because of her unwavering support and gratefulness for the program, but as the supportive and caring mother she is.

My son is enrolled in COHS. I saw him struggling in a traditional school setting, which is not for everyone. Once he was of age I contacted Viviana again and had my 18 year old enroll. He’s really enjoying it. Being an example, I want to show my kids that there’s always an opportunity to grow and it’s never too late to make strides and grow in life. What makes it much easier is when you have a mom that’s helped blaze the trail and show her kids what is possible and what it takes to find success in life.

To learn more about Career Online High School, visit denverlibrary.org/cohs
The Central Library reached another milestone in its renovation process when the reimagined Children’s Library opened to the public on April 24, 2022 for the first time since renovations began during the pandemic. The occasion was marked with a public ribbon cutting, remarks from Michelle Jeske, City Librarian, along with Councilman Chris Hinds whose district includes the Central Library. The opening coincided with Día Del Niño (Children’s Day) and the day was filled with family friendly performances and activities.

The new Children’s Library is a larger, relocated space on the first floor of the Central Library featuring over ten thousand square feet with a collection of over fifty thousand physical print and media materials. The reimagined Children’s Library was designed to meet the developmental needs for children from birth through fifth grade while providing key resources and services.

“We are thrilled to welcome families to our new Children’s Library,” said Michelle. “The space is a vibrant, kid friendly, and kid focused destination in the heart of the city that the community can visit and enjoy for generations to come.”

Highlights of the space include a dedicated baby play space, an expanded project room, lowered custom bookshelves for easier materials access with interactive elements, technology access including nine computers and four iPads, family friendly restrooms for children and their parents/caregivers, and more.

We always welcome everyone who visits the library. Building and creating these new spaces helps develop an environment that not only welcomes people but invites everyone to connect, explore, and discover how the library creates a strong community where everyone thrives.

The Central Library renovation is part of the 2017 Elevate Denver Bond. To learn more about all Denver Public Library bond projects, visit denverlibrary.org/bondprojects
FINANCIALS
2022 Volunteerism

308 total volunteers
I.e. general, Read Aloud, Friends Foundation

35,622 total service hours

DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY FINANCIALS
(as of 4/13/23)

51,884,625.62
TOTAL REVENUE

City General Funds
$49,331,135
Grants - State & Federal
$587,105
Donations, Transfers, & Misc.
$1,966,384

$51,957,471.15
TOTAL EXPENDITURES

$39,980,211
Staff Salaries & Expenditures
$6,517,740
Library Materials
$1,122,218
Library Programs
$1,398,694
Technology
$2,176,881
Administration & Other
### Statement of Financial Position

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<td>$1,852,234</td>
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<td>$1,813,233</td>
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### Statement of Activities

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<td>$4,556,607</td>
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<td>Distributions to the Library for Programs</td>
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<td>$1,344,098</td>
<td>Distributions for Central Renovations</td>
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<td>$764,066</td>
<td>Other Library Program Assistance</td>
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<td>$782,355</td>
<td>Supporting Services</td>
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TOTAL REVENUE IS EXCLUSIVE OF A $1,822,000 DECREASE IN INVESTMENT VALUE. ALL FOUNDATION FINANCIAL INFORMATION IS DERIVED FROM THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, WHICH ARE AVAILABLE, ALONG WITH THE 990, AT DPLFRIENDS.ORG.
2022 DISTRIBUTIONS TO DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

- Central Branch Renovations: $1,344,098
- Cultural Inclusivity Services: $300,102
- Youth Services: $248,530
- Branch Services: $213,302
- Adult & Older Adult Services: $120,641
- Collection Development: $84,427
- Community Engagement & Outreach: $52,378

2022 Distribution Total: $3,010,186
Dear Friends,

There is no other way to put it - 2022 was a tremendous year of support for Denver Public Library. The theme of this year’s Annual Report is “Thrive,” which resonates with the vision of DPL: A strong community where everyone thrives. We thank our members, donors, sponsors, and volunteers for their support. We also thank our advocates and the voters for the passage of the Strong Library, Strong Denver initiative. Together, we helped the community thrive in 2022!

Here are some highlights from the year:

- The Friends Foundation provided $3.77 million of support to Denver Public Library including $1.34 million to the Central Library renovation. This $3.77 million includes $3.010 in distributions and $.76 million in supporting programs.

- In addition to funding directly raised for the library and Foundation, the Foundation co-led the Strong Library, Strong Denver initiative, which secured $32 million in ongoing, dedicated funding for the library.

- The *A Story Still to Tell* capital campaign for the Central Library renovation was successfully completed. The Foundation directly raised $5.6 million in philanthropic funding; secured an additional, unplanned commitment from the City for $10 million; and generated another $6 million through the Strong Library, Strong Denver initiative for the renewal of the Central Library. The campaign goal was $12 million, and the total generated was just under $22 million.

- Two hundred community members joined the Friends Foundation for two celebrations in one day: the dedication of the library’s newest location, the Bob Ragland Branch Library; and the first-ever Picnic with Friends event!
The Friends Foundation hosted the 25th Booklovers Ball at the Denver Art Museum with five hundred supporters. Over the last six years, the Booklovers Ball has raised approximately $2 million to support Denver Public Library.

As renovations continued at the Central Branch Library, the Friends Foundation hosted ten Used Book Pop Up Sales throughout Denver. Used Book Sales overall raised an impressive quarter of a million dollars in 2022.

Almost three thousand Members of the Friends Foundation provided Denver Public Library with sustainable organizational and financial support.

In 2023, we anticipate many more openings and celebrations - from opening the new Park View Space to implementing the funds from Strong Library, Strong Denver to celebrating the 26th Booklovers Ball. We look forward to spending 2023 with you. Thank you for all you have done in support of Denver Public Library in 2022.

Yours very truly,

Jeff Riley  
Executive Director

Amy Brimah  
Chair, Board of Trustees, 2022

Laurie Troge  
Vice Chair, Board of Trustees, 2022
The Denver Public Library Friends Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization whose mission is to enrich the community by building support and raising money to enhance the library's programs and services. The Friends Foundation seeks private charitable contributions to supplement the library's budget; and it advocates for public funding - to help the library accomplish its mission. The core activities of the Foundation are: fundraising; membership; book and merchandise sales; the Booklovers Ball and community events; promotion and elevation of the library; advocacy; and, managing the endowment.

**Staff**
- Executive Director, Jeff Riley
- Senior Director of Philanthropy, Katy Anderson
- Director of Marketing and Communications, Jenn Beck
- Book Operations Assistant, Marley Bogran
- Manager of Philanthropy – Used Book Sales, Andrea Hamilton
- Director of Finance and Operations, Pam Jewett
- Database Specialist, Amy Maillet
- Director of Philanthropy, Rachel Malis
- Philanthropy Specialist, Monica Yori Peritt
- Manager of Philanthropy – Special Events, Sandra Tucker

**Board of Trustees**
- Chair, Amy Brimah
- Vice Chair, Laurie Troge
- Past Chair, Deb DeMuth
- Secretary, Ronald Tomassi
- Treasurer, Andy Bishop

Judy Allender
Joe Bochenek
Gay Cook
Mark Ferrandino
Pam Jewel
Emily King Marshall
April Lambatos
Akash Madiah

Brittany Morris Saunders
Lawson Parker
Bob Sarlo
Stewart Tucker Lundy
Lisa Vela
Susie Willson
Donald Yale
The Friends Foundation was excited to welcome the community to a variety of events throughout the year. Here’s where we saw you in 2022.

**Booklovers Ball**

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 Art Museum on October 8, 2022. With five hundred in attendance, the event raised nearly $400,000. Over the last six years, the Booklovers Ball has raised approximately $2 million to support Denver Public Library. Speakers included Denver City Librarian, Michelle Jeske, and Friends Foundation Executive Director, Jeff Riley. The Honorable Wellington E. Webb and the Honorable Wilma J. Webb served as honorary chairs, and Simone D. Ross was emcee. The Booklovers Ball also included two performances by Denver Art Museum Creative-in-Residence Kerrie Joy, a paddle-raiser, and an after-party with a DJ, desserts, and cocktails.

**Holiday Lighting Party**

On December 1, 2022, community members joined us on the third floor of the McNichols Building to view the holiday lights at the Denver City and County Building. With snow globe and ski lift photo booths, as well as delicious food from Footers Catering, supporters and volunteers celebrated the passing of the 2i ballot initiative and Central Library’s renovations, and cheered the work ahead. Thanks to Laurie Troge for “flipping the switch” to officially light the City and County Building that evening.

**Used Book Pop Up Sales**

As renovations continue at the Central Library, where large book sales are normally held, the Friends Foundation team took its bookselling business on the road, holding ten Used Book Pop Up Sales throughout the year.
The Used Book Sale Program at the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation is an extensive operation that supports the Foundation’s fundraising efforts. Used books from the community are donated to the Friends Foundation, and then sold online via Amazon, in surprise boxes, through the Dream Books Consignment Store, and in person at Used Book Sales. In a typical year, the Used Book Business raises more than $250,000 for Denver Public Library, and sorts 505,000 books. That’s more than half a million books! Of course, the next question is what makes this program possible with only two staff members leading the Used Book program.

“Volunteers,” Andrea Hamilton, Manager of Philanthropy, responded. “We have an incredible group of volunteers that help out in the Book Sorting Room; they feel like family!”

Volunteers in the Book Sorting Room, or Book Sorters, help sort donated books for the online Amazon sales, Surprise Boxes, and Used Book Sales. Other volunteers upload the sorted books to the Amazon online format. In 2022, Used Book Program volunteers worked 4,290 hours cumulatively.

What makes these volunteers so motivated to support the Used Book Business? Long-time volunteer, Scott Petersen states, “Libraries have long been a positive, enriching part of my life. I believe in the mission of Denver Public Library and value its commitment to welcoming all people. [When I volunteer] I feel connected to something that has a meaningful impact in our community and to the mission of DPL. I feel like I’m able to give back to an organization that has given a great deal to me. And I love books!”

The Denver Public Library Friends Foundation always needs volunteers to help with the Used Book Business. We asked Scott what he would tell someone thinking about volunteering for the Friends Foundation, and he responded: “Give it a try. It’s a great experience, a nice way to be involved in the community, to discover new books, and to learn about the mission and contribute to the work of Denver Public Library.” We couldn’t agree more!

Thank you to all of our tremendous volunteers who support the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation each year; we are grateful for your continued support!
Wes Brown, a long-time friend of the Denver Public Library and Friends Foundation, had a long and successful business career. He was a partner for several leading regional investment banking firms based in Denver and continues to serve on corporate boards. Throughout his adult life, he maintained a passion for maps and the history of exploration. His interest began when he used maps as a mountaineer in high school. By college, he began studying and collecting old maps and continues to this day. His active research has led to many publications, frequent public presentations, and serving on the boards of several national and international map organizations including as an advisor to the Map and Geography Division of the Library of Congress.

Wes has served on both the Library Commission and the Friends Foundation Board of Trustees and has donated to the library since 1989. The relationship began through Wes’ use of the map collection for research. The Denver Public Library has a very strong, nationally recognized, research-quality map collection specializing in maps of Colorado and the West. This overlaps nicely with Wes’ collection. He has given maps on occasion to the library for years, but at the end of his life, plans to give the remainder of his map collection to the library.

DPL’s map collection is actively used by students of cartography (the study and practice of making and using maps) and researchers in history, exploration, and genealogy. In 2022, he finalized arrangements and began funding a special endowment through current giving to be topped off with an estate gift. Earnings from the endowment will provide permanent funding for staff, acquisition, and/or conservation of the map collection. This endowment will ensure that DPL’s important map collection will continue to grow in significance in the future.

Donor Feature: The Friends Foundation gratefully acknowledges Wes Brown in this annual report because of his long term and high impact partnership with the Library and Foundation. His work is helping the library have a preeminent map collection.
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Stuart Alden Ink Lounge
George Williams

“We apologize, and request forgiveness, for any errors or omissions. If you would like your name listed differently in future publications, please call 720.865.1300. *Deceased listings are as of 12/31/22 to the best of our knowledge.

“Three young boys were checking out some books, two of them for the first time. One boy suddenly hugged the oldest boy and the oldest said “Why are you hugging me all of a sudden? Because I showed you this place? I can't believe you are hugging me just because I showed you the library!”
LOCATIONS

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

NORTHWEST
Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales
1498 N. Irving St. 80204
720.865.2370

Ross-Barnum
3570 W. 1st Ave. 80219
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
2401 Welton St. 80205
720.865.2401

Bob Ragland
1900 35th St. Suite A, 80216
720.865.2400

Ford-Warren
2825 High St. 80205
720.865.0920

Green Valley Ranch
4856 N. Andes Ct. 80249
720.865.0310

Montbello
12955 Albrook Dr. 80239
720.865.0200

Park Hill
4705 Montview Blvd. 80207
720.865.0250

Pauline Robinson
5575 E. 33rd Ave. 80207
720.865.0290

Ross-Cherry Creek
305 Milwaukee St. 80206
720.865.0120

Sam Gary
2961 Roslyn St. 80238
720.865.0325

Schlessman Family
100 Poplar St. 80220
720.865.0000

Valdez-Perry
4690 Vine St. 80216
720.865.0300

SOUTHWEST
Athmar Park
1055 S. Tejon St. 80223
720.865.0230

Bear Valley
5171 W. Dartmouth Ave. 80236
720.865.0975

Hadley
1890 S. Grove St. 80219
720.865.0170

Westwood
1000 S. Lowell Blvd. 80219
720.865.0215

SOUTHEAST
Decker
1501 S. Logan St. 80210
720.865.0220

Eugene Field
810 S. University Blvd. 80209
720.865.0240

Hampden
9755 E. Girard Ave. 80231
720.865.0185

Ross-Broadway
33 E. Bayaud Ave. 80209
720.865.0135

Ross-University Hills
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