

**“I go to the library every day after school, and sometimes on the weekends, because I feel very comfortable there. It feels like a second home to me.”**

**Perla Jimenez - age 15**



**THE DENVER PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**

**2006 Annual Report**



**A remarkable number of kids and teens registered for our popular and successful Summer of Reading program.**

**Not only did they sign up, they showed up at the Library in droves.**



**A**t the Denver Public Library, 2006 was a year to focus on kids and families. The Library stepped up efforts to serve youth by offering more children's programs, storytimes and outreach services. The results thrilled us. A remarkable number of kids and teens registered for our popular and successful Summer of Reading program. Not only did they sign up, they showed up at the Library in droves. Nearly 27,000 kids read some 156,000 books and attended hundreds of programs at the Central Library, 22 branch libraries and offsite locations.

The year also brought transition in leadership for the Library. After two decades, City Librarian Rick Ashton retired in February 2006. We are grateful to Rick for his years of dedicated service and the legacy he left. The Library welcomed Shirley Amore as City Librarian in June and is thriving under her guidance and vision.

On the financial front, there is good news to report. For the first time in several years, the 2007 budget includes an increase. The additional funding will provide extra hours and staff at several branches in answer to our customers' desire for expanded library hours.

We are delighted that The Institute of Museum and Library Services has funded our *Tu Biblioteca Hoy/Your Library Today* grant application in the amount of \$960,000 for the next three years. This grant will allow the Library to invest in laptop computer labs and also materials and staff training in order to enhance our English acquisition, GED and life skills programming. We will be partnering with the Denver Art Museum and *Museo de las Americas* to enhance

the literary and cultural programs for children that run concurrently with the adult programs.

It was also a landmark year for our virtual Library with nearly 38 million transactions on our web site. Keeping up with ever-changing technology continues to be a priority. We were the first library in the country to offer eFlicks — a downloadable movie service. And, much to the delight of our tech-savvy customers, we launched our first podcasting program.

While we take pride in our many achievements, we also recognize the need to strive for even better performance. In 2007, we will take a good look at the services we offer and measure the impact we have on the community. In addition, the Denver Public Library will rededicate itself to customer service. Friendly, accurate, consistent and timely service will be at the forefront of all we do.

Key relationships help us meet our mission. We are committed to working with Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper and Denver City Council to help the City reach its top goals: achieving the highest customer service rating, making Denver a better place to work and an even better place to live, creating 25,000 new private sector jobs and living within our means.

We are also committed to rejuvenating the alliance with the Denver Public Library

Friends Foundation. The Foundation is pivotal in helping the Library achieve its full potential, and we are pleased to report that we are well on the road to reinvigorating this important partnership. Together, we will continue the tradition of providing exceptional library service to the people of Denver.

K.C. Veio

*President of the Library Commission*

Shirley Amore

*City Librarian*

Hanne Lichtenfels

*President of the Friends Foundation*

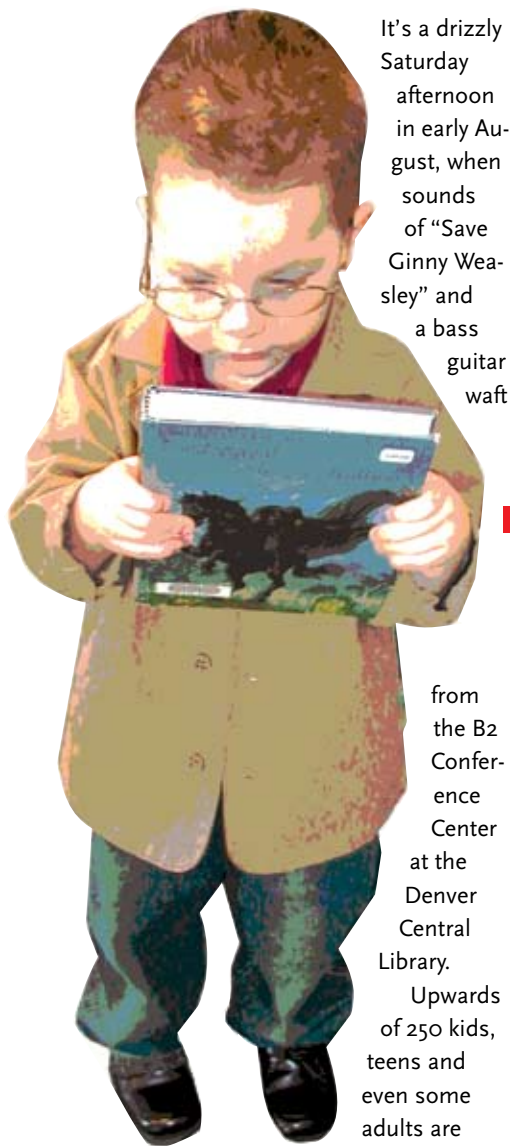


**Hanne Lichtenfels, K.C. Veio and Shirley Amore**





# The Denver Public Library... A Place for Kids



It's a drizzly Saturday afternoon in early August, when sounds of "Save Ginny Weasley" and a bass guitar waft

from the B2 Conference Center at the Denver Central Library.

Upwards of 250 kids, teens and even some adults are rocking to

Harry and the Potters, a band that travels around the country performing original songs based on the famous series of books. Wearing Hogwarts

"uniforms" and with shaggy haircuts, the band members combine rock 'n' roll with encouraging kids to read. And, on this day, it is cool to be at the Library.

"AWESOME!" shrieks one giddy 14-year-old girl, practically swooning over Draco and the Malfoys, the opening band.

Senior children's librarian and event organizer Emily Dagg is all smiles too. "I love seeing so many kids at the library," Dagg shouts over the blasting music.

"Serving children has always been high on the list at the Denver Public

Overall, participation was up 14 percent in the 2006 Summer of Reading program over 2005, as a new generation discovered the magic of reading. The number of children and teens attending Summer of Reading programs offered at DPL locations increased by a whopping 47 percent in 2006.

We also continued the tradition of collaborating with Denver Public Schools. Library staff conducted 876 promotional visits to DPS classrooms and assemblies, reaching more than 42,000 students. In addition, we

expanded our community partnerships in 2006 by working with the Denver Zoo, Denver Parks and Recreation and the DPS Summer Scholars program.

It wasn't just the numbers that pleased us, but also the impact. Seventy-two percent of kids who responded to a survey about the Library's Summer of Reading program said they "liked to read a lot." Eighty-five percent of parents who responded believed the program had increased their child's interest in reading "a little" or "a lot."

And programs didn't end with summer. The Library hosted 10,271 programs throughout the year, including storytimes, After School is Cool and Super Saturdays, with more than 230,000 people attending.

"Having programs is a way to get kids and families to the Library who don't normally come here," explains

**In 2006, kids received special attention at the Library.**

Library," says City Librarian Shirley Amore. "In 2006, it became a strategic priority."

"At the beginning of the year, we resolved to focus on the educational and developmental needs of youth," adds Susan Kotarba, manager of children's services.

To that end, the Library stepped up children's outreach services, storytimes and programming. The results of our efforts delighted us.

An astonishing number of kids and teens – 26,755 – registered for Summer of Reading, the ten-week program designed to help students improve and maintain their reading skills over the summer. Supported by contributions from individuals, philanthropic organizations, local businesses and corporations, Summer of Reading was an overwhelming success.

Dagg. "And once they are here, we can introduce them to the many services we offer."

Dagg recalls that on the day of the Harry and the Potters concert – in addition to announcing that the Library would distribute free earplugs – she reminded the audience about our teen web site, eVolver.

"Many of the kids did not even realize we have a teen web site," says Dagg. "And they thought we really were cool when I announced that we would have an interview with the band available as a podcast."

According to Michelle Jeske, manager of web information services, there was a definite increase in the number of views to the web site the day following the concert.

"To reach teens," Jeske says, "you have to communicate the way they do."

Hello, YouTube and MySpace. The Library not only has a presence on MySpace, but also offers a YouTube contest for teens.

"We want to give teens a new idea of what the library is and what the library can do for them," says

Angela Sigg, teen site content developer for the Library.

Young children also access our vibrant kid-friendly web site, Secret WonderWeb, to get homework help or a list of the latest books and movies. A six-year-old can download and listen to Miss Lydia read the classic Beatrix Potter story, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, via podcast.

"We are thrilled with the numbers of kids who access eVolver and Secret WonderWeb," Jeske says, adding that the sites average more than 2,000 views a day.

Still, even the latest technology can't outshine the experience of having a Read Aloud volunteer tell a story in person,

animating the characters of a book and making a tale come to life.

Just ask four-year-old Jalear who attends a Head Start center where Carleen Brice is a Read Aloud volunteer.

"In the beginning, Jalear would say 'no books' each time I'd come into the classroom," Brice says. "He claimed he hated stories and books. By the end of the fall session, he would sit quietly and listen. And one day, he asked if he could give me a hug. I just about cried."

"The single most important activity for building the knowledge for eventual success in reading, is reading aloud to children," according to a report from *Becoming a Nation of Readers*.

Read Aloud sends trained readers, most of whom are volunteers, into the

community to read stories to children during the school year.

In 2006, 25 staff and 85 volunteer readers visited 103 locations

**“Please read some ‘animal’ books to me.”**







and read 15,965 books to approximately 4,500 kids. At the end of each spring and fall session, each child receives his or her very own book to keep.

“Getting kids excited about books is so critical,” says Read Aloud coordinator Susan Oakes. “If children love books and listening to stories, they will be better prepared to learn how to read when they enter school.”

Library staff member and volunteer reader Hannah Miles lights up the room each time she arrives at the Westside Montessori Day Care for storytime. The kids run to her, screaming, “HI NANA!” Miles captivates the roomful of four-year-olds as she reads *Roly-Poly Puppies*.

“I adore reading to the little ones,” Miles says, “and they always make my day.”

When she leaves, the students smother her with hugs and kisses. It’s apparent she makes their day, too.

While kids received special attention in 2006, the Library continued to serve all customers in countless ways.

In addition to circulating 9,244,353 items, answering 878,850 reference questions, and serving 38 locations each month via the Bookmobile, the Library hosted 250 events through Fresh City Life, our popular adult program series. More than 7,500 individuals attended classes that included everything from preparing the perfect autumn salad to shuffling cards like a pro. Customers also listened to the likes of the Purnell Steen Trio perform jazz in Schlessman Hall.

The Library also offered classes at several branches on earning a GED, improving English language skills and buying a house. Children’s programs are offered concurrently, so it’s easier for parents to attend the classes.

In addition to the nearly 4 million people who walked through our doors in 2006, almost 38 million library transactions were conducted online by customers who didn’t even step foot into our buildings.

Award-winning reference librarians who staff AskColorado, DPL’s 24/7 online reference service, fielded 16,100 questions in 2006, a 53 percent increase over the number of questions answered in 2005.

Paid to be “know-it-alls,” librarians responded to queries such as, “Can you help me find information about bubbles?” and “How do I apply for a business license?”

“We answer a very wide variety of questions,” says reference librarian and AskColorado representative Susie Whiteford.

Fifty-nine percent of AskColorado customers are students, kindergarten through 12th grade, according to

Whiteford, who adds that librarians often answer questions from students who are working on a science fair project or history assignment.

“People are thankful to have expert help in finding answers to their questions,” Whiteford says. “It really is a valuable resource.”

One happy AskColorado customer wrote, “Thank you for your assistance. Librarians ROCK!”

Whether online or in person, everything we do begins and ends with serving the customer.

We could not serve our customers nearly as well without the help of the many people who give their time and their talents. At the top of this list is the Library Commission, the eight mayoral appointees who serve – without pay – as the policy-making and governing board of the Library.

Just as important are the volunteers and docents who tallied some impressive numbers in 2006, giving a combined total of 99,029 hours, performing important tasks throughout the system. We also thank the many

## TEENBOOKREVIEW

**To Kill A Mockingbird, by Harper Lee**

**Review by Diamond, Age 13**

**“This is a great book! It takes place in the 1930s in Alabama. This book teaches a lesson on not believing everything you hear, and learning how to love. If you love to read about humor, suspense, 1930s, mystery, and love, read this book!”**

individuals, businesses, organizations and corporations who support us with financial contributions and in-kind donations.

We are grateful to each and every one of you for your remarkable generosity and support.

And while it’s imperative to track statistics such as number of items we circulate and individuals we serve,

it’s icing on the cake when we hear from people such as the Hadley Branch customer who wrote, “I cannot describe my joy when I found out that DPL has so many Vietnamese books that my 80-year-old mother can read. When you provide these books, you have the community in mind, but more than that, you have deeply touched a family.”

We also smiled when we read the message from Schlessman Family Branch customer Meg Sparling: “When I asked my kids what they wanted to do for spring break, they said, ‘WE WANT TO GO TO THE LIBRARY!’”

Multiply these stories by thousands, and one gets an idea of how many lives the Library touches.

We are privileged to be part of our customers’ lives. Promoting literacy to children, reaching out to teens, serving the community.

Awesome, indeed.



<http://teens.denverlibrary.org/find/reviews.cfm>

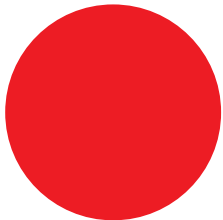


**“We are privileged to be part of our customers’ lives. Promoting literacy to children, reaching out to teens, serving the community. Awesome, indeed.”**

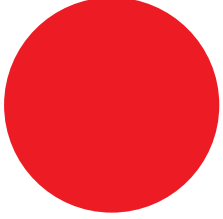







# “We want to go to the library!”

## Financials

Library Revenues	City General Fund	Donations, Transfers, Misc. Revenues	Grants-State Federal and City	Total
				
	\$28,856,700	\$2,456,317	\$147,483	\$31,460,500

Library Expenditures	Staff Salaries, Expenditures	Library Materials	Supplies, Services	Total
				
	\$21,982,323	\$5,085,062	\$4,199,587	\$31,266,972

Capital Improvement Projects	
	
	\$128,662

“To reach teens you have to communicate the way they do.”



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## Denver Public Library Friends Foundation Statement of Financial Position and Activities of 2006

statement of financial position audited statement December 31, 2006

### assets

cash and cash equivalents	1,338,726
pledges, accounts receivable, pre-paid expenses	2,056
assets held in trust for library	207,308
long-term investments	4,661,392
fixed assets	3,308
<b>total assets</b>	<b>6,212,790</b>

### liabilities & net assets

accounts payable and accrued expenses	6,663
assets held in trust for library	207,308
unrestricted net assets	517,969
temporarily restricted net assets	3,810,794
permanently restricted net assets	1,670,056
<b>total net assets</b>	<b>5,998,819</b>
<b>total liabilities, net assets</b>	<b>6,212,790</b>

statement of activities audited statement December 31, 2006

### revenues

	unrestricted	restricted	total
contributions	32,414	1,024,260	1,056,674
memberships	-	144,534	144,534
events / fundraising	-	27,607	27,607
investment income	121,523	544,827	666,350
<b>total revenues</b>	<b>153,937</b>	<b>1,741,228</b>	<b>1,895,165</b>

### expenses

supporting services	109,576	-	109,576
<b>total expenses</b>	<b>109,576</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>109,576</b>

### transfers

transfers to DPL	18,076	1,356,624	1,374,700
<b>total expenses, transfers</b>	<b>127,652</b>	<b>1,356,624</b>	<b>1,484,276</b>





Rare and Not-So-Rare Book & Art Auction

Robin and  
Derek  
Wolfgram



Letty Icolari  
and Denver  
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Hickenlooper



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Steve  
Hansen and  
Adrianna  
Alterman



Stephen  
and Reba  
Savageau



Marilyn  
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Noel



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Evil Companions Literary Award

Joyce Meskis,  
K.C. Veio and  
Dana Crawford



Friends Award Ceremony

award presented to outstanding  
volunteer Marilyn Amer

Dennis Gallagher,  
Marilyn Amer  
and Tom Noel



Eleanor Gehres Award Ceremony award presented to Wes Brown

K.C. Veio, Wes Brown  
and Rick Ashton



Linda, Wes,  
Andy and  
Laura Brown



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Farewell Luncheon for Rick Ashton

Karen Rokala, James Mejia and Sid Wilson



Rick Ashton and host Jaren Ducker



Wes Brown and Landri Taylor



Booklovers' Ball Patron Party

K.C. and Kristina Veio



Sid and Claudia Wilson



Hosts Lonna and David Fitzgerald



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Booklovers' Ball

Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper, Shirley and John Amore



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Jaren and Bruce Ducker



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Booklovers' Ball continued

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the Queen of  
Hearts and  
Councilman  
Doug Linkhart



Judge  
Luis and  
Lois Ann  
Rovira



Karen  
and Curt  
Rokala



K.C. and  
Kristina Veio,  
Marcia and  
Rick Ashton



Liz Sathe,  
Rita Larson  
and Karen  
Hull



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Booklovers' Ball continued

Pilar  
Castro-Reino  
and Frank  
Fresquez



Jim Drake  
and Mike  
Eitner



Elaine  
and Don  
Langeberg



Alex and  
Kateri Abeyta



Sean Cowans  
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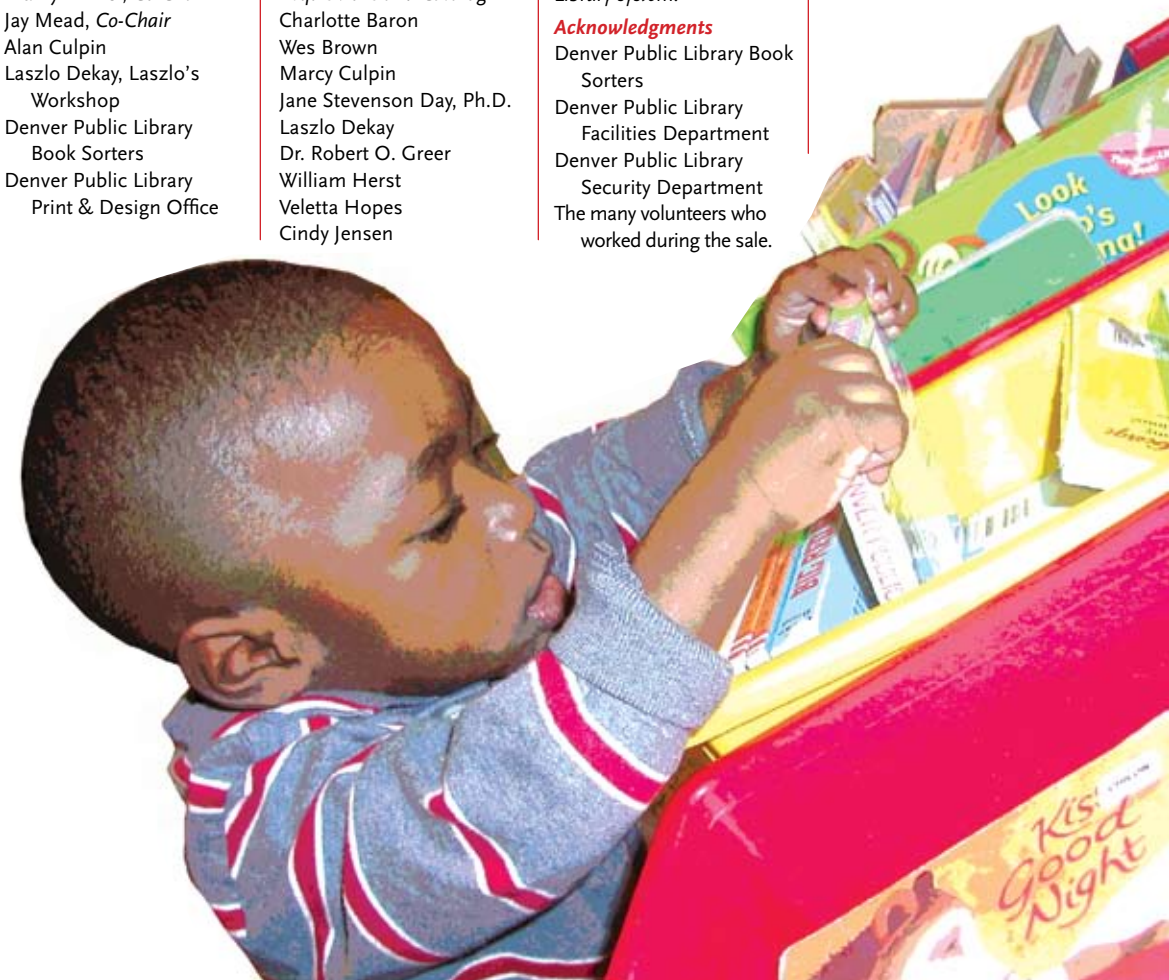
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*The annual event raised over \$50,000. A quarter of the proceeds went to the New Orleans Public Library system.*  
**Acknowledgments**  
Denver Public Library Book Sorters  
Denver Public Library Facilities Department  
Denver Public Library Security Department  
The many volunteers who worked during the sale.

**Donations**  
Cherokee Dining on 12th Ave.  
Chipotle - 6th & Broadway  
Chipotle - 13th & Pennsylvania  
Comcast MetroBeat TV  
Deep Rock Water  
Oroweat Bakery  
Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. - Denver  
Quiznos Classic Subs  
† Deceased

*Listings are as of December 31, 2006. We regret any errors. If you would like your name listed differently in future publications, please call 720-865-2047.*





**9,244,353**  
items circulated

**413**  
full-time equivalent staff

**99,029**  
hours donated by docents  
& volunteers

**37,714,559**  
online transactions

**3,762,490**  
visitors to the Central  
Library and 22 branches

**878,850**  
reference questions  
answered system-wide

**2,613**  
number of times  
“Freakonomics,” by Steven  
Levitt, was checked out

## Leadership

John W. Hickenlooper  
*Mayor of Denver*

Dennis J. Gallagher  
*City Auditor*

Shirley Amore  
*City Librarian*

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Lois Ann Rovira  
*Secretary*

Fofi Mendez  
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*Director of Public  
Services*

Beth Elder  
*Director of Planning*

Jo Haight Sarling  
*Director of Collections  
and Technology*

Rachelle Naishtut  
*Executive Assistant*

Letty H. Icolari  
*Director of Human  
Resources and (Interim)  
Director of Finance and  
Administration*



## Denver Public Library Locations

**Central Library**  
10 W. Fourteenth Ave. Pkwy  
720-865-1111

### Northwest Branch Libraries

#### Byers\*

675 Santa Fe Dr.  
at W. 7th Ave.  
303-571-1665

**Ross-Barnum**  
3570 W. 1st Ave.  
at Lowell Blvd.  
303-935-1891

#### Smiley\*

4501 W. 46th Ave.  
at Utica St.  
303-477-3622

#### Woodbury\*

3265 Federal Blvd.  
at W. 33rd Ave.  
720-865-0930

### Southwest Branch Libraries

#### Athmar Park

1055 S. Tejon St. at  
W. Mississippi Ave.  
303-935-0721

#### Bear Valley

5171 W. Dartmouth Ave.  
at S. Sheridan Blvd.  
303-935-0616

#### Hadley

1890 S. Grove St.  
at W. Jewell Ave.  
303-935-4267

#### Westwood

1000 S. Lowell Blvd.  
*Reopens mid-2007*

### Northeast Branch Libraries

#### Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library

2401 Welton St.  
720-865-2401

#### Ford-Warren

2825 High St.  
at E. 28th Ave.  
720-865-0920

#### Montbello

12955 Albrook Dr.  
303-373-0767

#### Park Hill\*

4705 Montview Blvd.  
at Dexter St.  
303-331-4063

#### Pauline Robinson

5575 E. 33rd Ave.  
at Holly St.  
303-370-1530

### Ross-Cherry Creek

305 Milwaukee St.  
at E. 3rd Ave.  
303-331-4016

#### Schlessman Family

100 Poplar St.  
at 1st and Quebec  
720-865-0000

#### Valdez-Perry

4690 Vine St.  
at E. 47th Ave.  
303-295-4302

### Southeast Branch Libraries

#### Decker\*

1501 S. Logan St.  
at E. Florida Ave.  
303-733-7584

#### Eugene Field

810 S. University Blvd.  
at E. Ohio Ave.  
303-777-2301

### Hampden

9755 E. Girard Ave.  
at S. Dayton St.  
303-750-3885

#### Ross-Broadway

33 E. Bayaud Ave.  
at S. Lincoln St.  
303-777-4845

#### Ross-University Hills

4310 E. Amherst Ave.  
at S. Birch St.  
303-757-2714

#### Virginia Village

1500 S. Dahlia St.  
at E. Florida Ave.  
303-757-6662

\* **Denver Historic  
Landmarks**

For more information, please visit

**denverlibrary.org**



denverlibrary.org

This report was written and photographed by Sherry Spitsnaugle and designed by Studio Harris



THE DENVER PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

10 W. 14th Avenue Parkway  
Denver, CO 80204-2731

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