



DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

2011 Annual Report



‘We Are Grateful for Your Support’

One question that we hear these days is, “*Are libraries relevant?*”

The answer?

Just ask David Bondarchuck. As a homeless teen, David came to the Central Library all day, every day, not only to ‘feel safe’ but to pore over cookbooks including those by one of his idols, Martha Stewart. Today, David owns Scratch Catering Services, a local business he founded. David says he didn’t learn his craft in culinary school, but at the Library.

Ask seven-year-old Miles Bourgeois who came to the Eugene Field Branch Library along with his sister, Selah, for Summer of Reading. Selah read 13 books and Miles read an impressive 37.

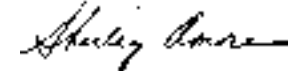
Miles told senior librarian Anna Winkel if he could go anywhere or do anything, he would choose either Noodles & Company... or the library.

Libraries are relevant.

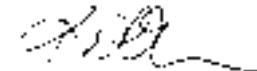
Ask the 3.5 million people who walked through our doors in 2011, the nearly 40,000 kids who participated in Summer of Reading, or the customers who conducted some 46 million online transactions.

In today’s economy, when library use continues to increase even as funding decreases, libraries are more relevant than ever. The Denver Public Library will continue to adapt to our customers’ ever-changing needs and the digital age.

We are grateful to each of you for your support of the Library and the Friends Foundation, and also to our volunteers and docents who gave 105,469 hours of service. We promise that we will do everything we can to ensure that the Denver Public Library continues to provide great service to the people of our community.



Shirley Amore, City Librarian



Kevin O’Connor
Library Commission President



Elizabeth Anderman
Friends Foundation President



*Elizabeth Anderman, Friends Foundation President;
Kevin O'Connor, Library Commission President; Shirley Amore, City Librarian*

David Bondarchuck – From Homeless Teen to Business Owner

As a homeless teen, David Bondarchuck came to the Central Library all day, every day, not only to ‘feel safe,’ but to pore over cookbooks including those by one of his idols, Martha Stewart.

The teen came and went from our premises without anyone ever knowing the gritty details of his life. He wanted it that way because he didn’t want to draw attention to himself.

“Those were some tough times,” David recalls.

David says he didn’t learn his craft in culinary school, but at the Library.

Today, David owns Scratch Catering Services, a local business he founded.

And if that isn’t enough of a happy ending, David applied to decorate the White House for the holidays and was

accepted in December 2011. Someone on Martha Stewart’s staff heard his story and asked him to appear on her show, which he did.

To this day, David comes to Central, and says he has no idea where he would be if not for the Library.

“The Library,” he adds, “changed the direction of my life.”



Three and a-half million people walked through our doors in 2011, each with their own story.

David Bondarchuck, Scratch Catering Services, at the Denver Central Library

Beverly Grant – Entrepreneur

Beverly Grant’s wrap-around smile never seems to leave her face, especially when she is discussing fresh produce.

“I am passionate about food, history and culture,” the Denver native says. “And I’m committed to making fresh food accessible and affordable for everyone and educating people about making better food choices.”

Beverly says she had identified a food desert in her neighborhood and decided to do something about it.

She dreamed of opening a farmers market in Five Points, but had no idea where to begin. Beverly started by signing up for an eight-week intensive bootcamp for entrepreneurs, but says she was “really inspired” after attending a presentation given by the Library’s outreach specialist Dixie Malone.

“Beverly was enthusiastic every step of the way,” says Dixie, who helps Denver Public Library customers find the information and resources they need to create their business plan, even conducting one-on-one sessions.

Beverly completed the workshop for entrepreneurs, and today she rattles off terms such as “market shares” and “sustainable practices” faster than you can say heirloom tomato.

In the summer of 2011, Beverly proudly opened her market near the Light Rail station at 25th and Welton.

“I just love selling fresh produce that is organic and delicious,” she says, beaming.



**Entrepreneurs can find
research tools at the
Library and at Bizboost@
denverlibrary.org**

*Beverly Grant at the Blair-Caldwell African American
Research Library*

Aeryn Gray - 'Smiley Is My Second Home'

Aeryn Gray bubbles with enthusiasm about life in general and Smiley Branch Library in particular. The 24-year-old loves the branch so much, she even has a tattoo of its longitude and latitude coordinates near her heart.

"The branch is so much a part of my life, it was something I wanted to do," she says. "The tattoo is in a font from *Harry Potter*, the first book I ever borrowed from my library."

Aeryn has been coming to Smiley since she was eight years old and calls the neighborhood branch her second home.

"When I was growing up, I switched schools a lot, and it was kind of tough," she says. "But when I was having a bad day, I would come to Smiley and feel better. I could read books that took me away completely."

As a youngster, she loved to hang out at Smiley and says that she has probably read every book in the building. The branch was her oasis.

Smiley reference librarian Dana Richardson says, "We watched Aeryn grow up and are so proud of her."

Today, Aeryn is living in Seattle and preparing to attend the University of Washington. Her dream is to make a career of building libraries in underdeveloped countries. She credits Smiley Branch staff for helping her get to this point in her life.

"They are my northern star," she says.

Aeryn admits to being homesick, but stays in touch with her Library family in Denver and downloads eBooks using her beloved Denver Public Library card.

For Aeryn Gray, Smiley Branch Library is home sweet home.

THE WILLIAM H SMILEY BRANCH LIBRARY

The Library circulated 8.9 million items in 2011 to 455,302 cardholders, one of whom currently lives in Seattle.

Aeryn Gray at the Smiley Branch Library

Carly Rockwell - 'I LOVE the Green Valley Ranch Branch Library'

Eleven-year-old Carly Rockwell loves books and the Green Valley Ranch Branch Library so much that on the day of the grand opening, she hugged her favorite *Twilight* books... all of them.

"I LOVE this library!" Carly says, smiling.

Carly is not alone. More than 1,600 visitors helped celebrate at the grand open-

ing on March 12. Since then, the branch has served more than 100,000 customers and circulated 545,000 items.

"The community has embraced this library," says co-manager of the Children's and Family Services Branches Cori Jackamore. "It has been a long time coming, and we are thrilled that this beautiful branch is open. It's a dream come true."

For Carly — a voracious reader and excellent student according to dad Quentin Rockwell — the branch is a great place to explore and imagine.

She especially loves the biology section. It's no surprise. Carly wants to be a cancer doctor when she grows up.

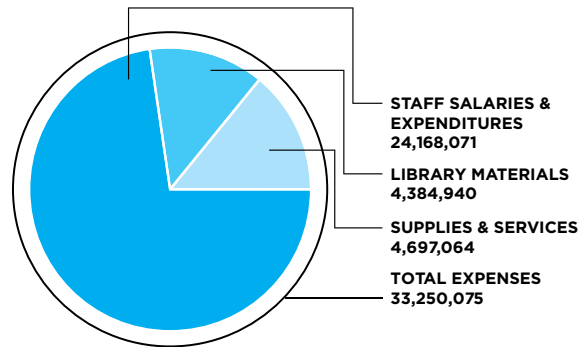
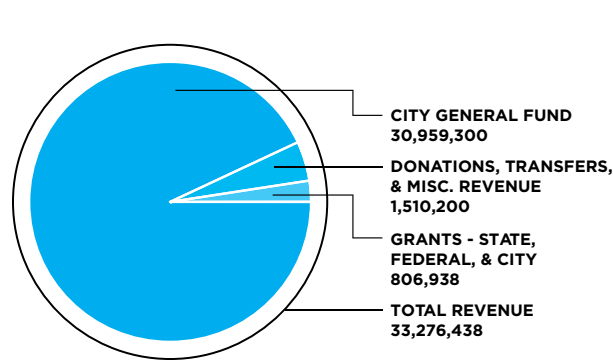


Since opening in March 2011, the Green Valley Ranch Branch Library has Circulated 545,000 items.

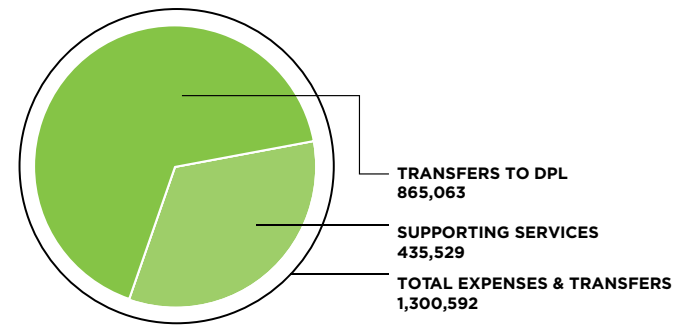
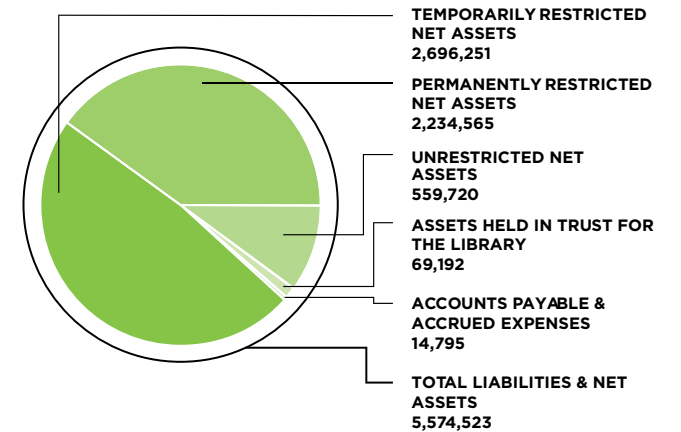
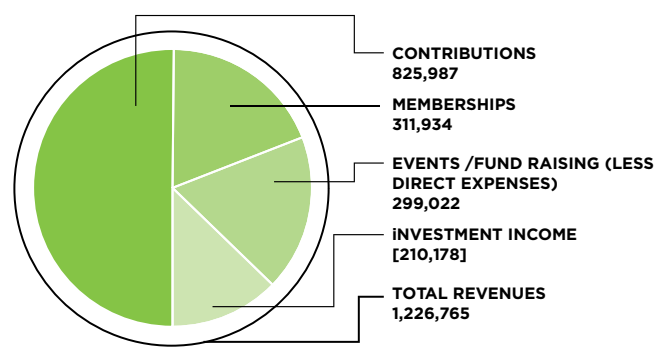
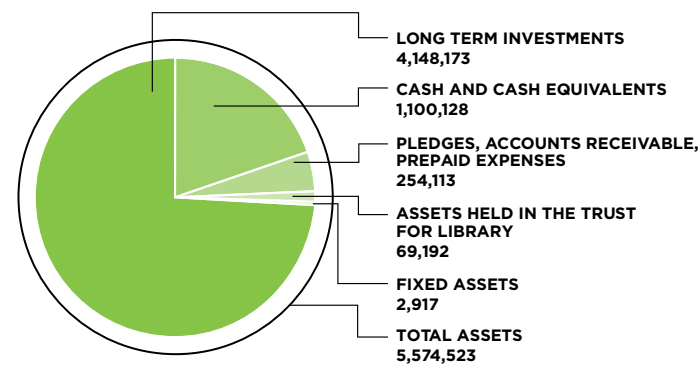
Carly Rockwell at the Green Valley Ranch Branch Library

2011 Financial Statistics

**DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY
2011 FINANCIAL STATISTICS**



**DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY FRIENDS FOUNDATION
2011 FINANCIAL STATISTICS**



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Willmetta Owens reads to her son Darius at the Green Valley Ranch Branch Library.

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We will miss Sharon Gravelle, donor and volunteer, who passed away March 2012.

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The Denver Public Library
Annual Report was written
and photographed by
Sherry Spitsnaugle and
designed by David Donnell

Cover photo: Reflection of
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