One extraordinary highlight stands out for the Denver Public Library in 2012: Denver voters passed Ballot Measure 2A, ensuring additional funds to open every branch a minimum of 48 hours per week in 2013. This translates to a welcome 40 percent overall increase in hours.

There was much to celebrate in 2012. With a great sense of excitement, we opened the long-awaited Sam Gary Branch Library in the Stapleton neighborhood in August.

Curious crowds poured into the beautiful library to admire the sleek, 21st-century design. We also broke ground for the branch in West Denver, the third and final branch funded by the 2007 Better Denver Bond Program.

In 2012, nearly 4 million customers walked through our doors. Behind every statistic is a face and a personal journey.

In this year’s Annual Report, several customers share how the Library helped them achieve their dreams. We are privileged to serve our customers and delight in their personal triumphs.

We are profoundly grateful to each of you for your support of the Library and the Friends Foundation, and to our volunteers and docents who donated more than 100,000 hours of service. Without you, we could not serve the community as well.

Kevin O’Connor
Library Commission President

Elizabeth Anderman
Friends Foundation President

Shirley Amore, City Librarian
A
drian Miller's business card reads “soul food scholar, culinary historian, certified barbecue judge, engaging speaker and nice guy.” What it doesn't say is that he is also a Stanford graduate, attorney, Clinton White House alumni and soon-to-be-published author.

His book, Soul Food: The Surprising Story of an American Cuisine, One Plate at a Time, is due in August.

“I wanted to write a tribute to black cooks that also delves deeply into the history of their cooking and food culture – a book that’s never been written,” he says.

Adrian began working on his labor of love in 2000 and came to the Central Library and the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library. He researched books documenting the lives of early African Americans in the Library’s renowned Western History/Genealogy department.

“There were some horrific stories in the collection, but there were also some wonderful tales of love,” he says.

The charismatic author, who also is in demand for speaking presentations, says that the greatest compliment he receives is when someone tells him, “You gave me a history lesson but it didn’t feel like one.”

Adrian flashes his signature smile and adds, “I just love soul food and telling people about it.”

The Western History/Genealogy Department at the Central Library houses nationally acclaimed manuscript collections. The Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library serves as an educational and cultural resource for the people of Denver and the world, focusing on the history, literature, art, music, religion, and politics of African Americans in Colorado and throughout the Rocky Mountain West.
Three-year-old Liam asked his mom for one thing and one thing only for his upcoming birthday: his very own Denver Public Library card. He even selected the color—magenta.

Liam understands that the key to an endless supply of books—which he loves having his mom read to him at night—is the 2 x 3½-inch plastic card with the words Denver Public Library and IGNITE YOUR MIND.

Liam's mom, Paola, says that she brings Liam and little sister Carly to the Central Library every week for storytime and to check out books. Liam loves Children's librarian Chúfò Ramirez, who reads to the kids in Spanish. Liam says Señor Chúfò is “cool.”

On his big day, Children’s staff presented Liam with his glossy new Library card as Señor Chúfò serenaded him with “Happy Birthday” on his guitar.

When asked what he wants to be when he grows up, Liam doesn’t hesitate. “A doctor,” he proclaims. But for today, Liam is over-the-moon with his prized new possession and a stack of books to take home.

In 2012, DPL provided more than 1,900 storytimes, with a total attendance of over 72,000. Bilingual Storytimes are interactive programs specifically designed for two to four-year-old children who speak Spanish, English or both.
When Steve Smalwood first came to the Community Technology Center at the Denver Central Library, he had a dream to publish his poetry, but no idea about how to begin.

Enter Simone Groene-Nieto and Cindy Schneider, tech wizards in the CTC. Simone showed Steve the finer points of formatting poetry and also helped him find information about self-publishing. Cindy met with Steve one-on-one several times to show him some tips about word processing and doing Internet research.

Steve came to the Library faithfully, often attending classes such as Computer Basics. “Steve was a wonderful student,” Cindy says. “He was eager to improve his skills and apply his new technology.”

Today, he proudly poses with his recently published book of poetry, Garland. He insists he could not have reached this point without Library staff. To show his gratitude, he even wrote a poem for them and also thanked them in the acknowledgments.

Steve says he felt overwhelmed when he first saw a copy of his creation with his byline right there on the cover. He holds his book, and says with a grin, “This is the icing on the cake.”
While many teens are obsessed with clothes, texting and following friends on Facebook, Angelita Moreno’s idea of a good time is going to the Athmar Park Branch Library. The high school junior has been a regular at the southwest Denver branch ever since she was in sixth grade, when she discovered the library’s After School Is Cool program.

Along with other ASIC participants, Angelita wanted to help resolve the growing problem of graffiti in her neighborhood. They painted a festive mural which hangs on the side of the library.

In 2012, the teen applied to be on the Mayor’s Youth Commission. Following is an excerpt from her application:

The Athmar Park Library has molded my life. When I started going as a sixth grader my only interest was being on the computer and hanging out with friends, until I started attending After School Is Cool. I plan to make an impact on the city the way I have at my local library. This is the next step I plan to take toward changing the world.

Angelita was accepted and is successfully serving her term. To her, the Library is “awesome.” At 16, this poised young lady dreams of making the world a better place.

Awesome, indeed.
City Librarian Shirley Amore, Mayor Michael B. Hancock & Booklovers Ball

Tom & Kate Field

Connie Rule & June Nery

Wanchisen

Meg Nguyen & Brad

Elizabeth Neufeld

Peter Naseth

Giving Fund

Montague-Clouse Charitable

Sharon & Ron Miller

Mesa Verde Foundation

Meckley

Donna & Richard

Timothy J. Parsons

Nancy M. McMahon &

Valli & Tom McDougle

Eliza Madsen

Ann & Hal Logan

Peggy Lehmann

Lane

Nussbaum

Kazoo & Company, Inc.

Pam & Lawrence Jewett

Elizabeth Holtze

Holme

Barbara S. & Howard K.

Sue & Russell Haskell

John Hamrick

Heather Harris &

Lynda M. Goldstein

Lanny Proffer

Carolyn Goble &

Erin & Josh Freedman

Elizabeth Neufeld

Connie Rule & June Nery

City Librarian Shirley Amore, Mayor Michael B. Hancock & Booklovers Ball, Sat. May 6, 2017 at 5:30 pm, Central Library, Great Hall. Booklovers Ball Patron Party, Sat. May 6, 2017 at 4:00 pm, Central Library, Great Hall.

City Librarian Shirley Amore, Mayor Michael B. Hancock & Booklovers Ball, Sat. May 6, 2017 at 5:30 pm, Central Library, Great Hall. Booklovers Ball Patron Party, Sat. May 6, 2017 at 4:00 pm, Central Library, Great Hall.
Jaimie Rosen Richards Community Awards Ceremony, 25th Anniversary, Blue Catwalk Animal Rescue’s Ball-01