

We connect customers to information, ideas and experiences.

When 14-year-old Molly Maier came to the Central Library to

research a project for National History Day, little did she know where the journey would take her.

Reference librarian Joe Cahn showed Molly how to find information about her chosen topic—the birth control pill as a turning point in history. From there, Joe says, she soared.

Molly came to the Central Library on a regular basis for some eight months to pore over magazine articles, journals, periodicals and government documents. "I got a lot of information here I wouldn't have found on my own," says the freshman at Denver School of the Arts. "Joe showed me information I didn't even know existed!"

Molly's hard work paid off. The straight-A student placed first in the Junior Exhibits category at the Denver Public Schools competition, then moved on to the state competition where she placed second. It just got

better from there. She then traveled to Maryland with her parents to compete in the national competition, against 112 of the best exhibits in the country. Molly brought home the bronze.

Molly says, "I would rather do my research at the Library than on the Internet." No doubt that is music to the ears of librarians everywhere.

Joe was among the first people with whom Molly shared her good news.

"I couldn't be more proud of her if she were my own niece," he says with a smile.

Reference Librarian

Joe Cahn congratulates

Molly Maier on her national
award-winning entry

"I couldn't be more proud of her if she were my own niece."

Reference Librairian

Reference librarians answered **506,012 questions** in 2013 and also assisted customers such as Molly one-on-one.



leadership

The Denver Public Library had much to celebrate in 2013. Our customers were all smiles to find our doors open an astounding 40 percent more than the previous year. We thank you—the voters—for passing Ballot Measure 2A to ensure that we serve the community with more hours and resources.

We are also very pleased to report that the Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales Branch Library in West Denver is under construction and scheduled to open by the end of 2014. This is the third and final branch funded by the 2007 Better Denver Bond Program.

In 2013, we connected millions of customers to information, ideas and experiences. More than four million people walked through our doors and nearly 11 million customers visited us online. Customers checked out almost 10 million items and attended hundreds of programs. A record 41,263 kids participated in Summer of Reading, which promotes reading, literacy and life-long learning.

Behind every statistic is a personal journey. In this year's *Annual Report*, several customers share their stories. 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.

Jay Mead, President of Library Commission

Shirley Amre

Kevin Gile, President of Friends Foundation

We connect people to information, ideas and experiences

The original Ross-Cherry Creek Branch Library (which opened in 1962), received a much-needed refurbishing in 1990, resulting in a modern building that is aligned with its vibrant neighborhood. The 2007 Better Denver project provided funding for interior improvements such as brighter colors, comfortable reading areas and more computers.

A bright mosaic greets visitors at the Eugene Field Branch Library, located in the Bonnie Brae neighborhood. Named for poet, humorist and journalist Eugene Field, the branch was originally a cottage that was donated to the city by Mrs. J.J. ("Unsinkable Molly") Brown in 1930, and replaced with a new building in 1970.

Four-year-old Reese Rob Inson has one thing Awesome, on her mind when she comes

to the Children's Library at Central:

snuggling with the big brown stuffed bear. It's no surprise. Her favorite book – which "Nana" Janet Reese says she has read to the youngster 'at least a hundred times' - is No Sleep for the Sheep.

Reese participated in the Library's Summer of Reading program in the pre-school category which is geared toward completing activities with parents or guardians. Reese completed enough activities to claim her prizes: a yellow duck, a book and a backpack.

But the prizes weren't the highlights. Reese says that reading stories with Mom and Dad was "awesome."

Mom Brittany Robinson says since Summer of Reading, Reese gathers her stuffed animals, pretends they are her students and reads aloud to them. Awesome, indeed.

indeed.

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Bob Ragland comes to the Ford-Warren Branch Library

faithfully at least three days a week to read

The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times,

The Denver Post and a list of other newspapers.

"I prefer to read the hard copy because it's not edited like the online version," says the artist/educator, adding, "If I don't read the paper every day, I'm afraid I might miss something that could be helpful."

Bob has been coming to the northeast Denver branch, which is a ten-minute stroll from his home, "since it opened."

"You can just say, 'more than fifty years,'"
Bob adds with a chuckle.

The Ohio native, who is listed in Who's Who in American Art and whose work is featured in the Kirkland Museum, not only catches up on the news at the Library but researches the latest trends in art and marketing. Bob believes

in helping other artists. He rarely misses a chance to hand out one of his business cards which includes his philosophy on marketing: "Remember that people will not knock your studio door down to buy your art. Market or starve!"

Senior Librarian Annie Kemmerling says that she has developed a relationship with Bob over the years. "We talk art, and I've learned a lot from Bob." The entire staff at Ford-Warren knows Bob by name. And he knows them.

"The staff is the best ever, so friendly and helpful," Bob adds. "I just love the people here."

"If I don't read the paper every day, I'm afraid I might miss something that could be helpful."

Bob Ragland

Southwest Denver's Athmar
Park Branch Library was
housed in a strip mall until
1999, when it was moved
to a lovely renovated stone
church, complete with a
reading area in the former
pulpit. A Robert Mangold
wind sculpture (once owned
by the Denver Art Museum)
welcomes visitors.

Named "Best New Building" in 1996 by Westword, the Valdez-Perry Branch Library is located in the Elyria-Swansea neighborhood, at 47th and Vine. The 5000-square-foot structure offers a civic gathering spot for people of all ages. A shady patio with comfortable seating and casual landscaping provides a retreat from city life.



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At the ripe old age of 12, Quinton Feast has produced a movie, altered images in Photoshop and built a programmable robot with LEGO Mindstorms -

all in the ideaLAB on level four of the Central Library.

Quinton is a weekly regular at the stateof-the-art digital media lab where teens can express themselves electronically to their hearts' content.

Here, 12 to 19-year-olds can design a website, record an original song, or create a video complete with special effects. The ideaLAB has a list of software long enough to make any tech-loving teen swoon. There's GarageBand, Dreamweaver, Cakewalk Sonar X1, and Gamemaker Studio.

"The lab has really been popular since we opened," says Library Program Associate Nate Stone who oversees the tech-rich lab.

"We're very proud of the fact that we have developed an environment where kids can learn and feel comfortable playing around and experimenting," Stone adds.

"It's great to see kids making cool stuff – at the Library."

The idea behind the lab is to engage teens in the production of all things digital by building on their interests in games, movies, music and art, and thus developing skills that will serve them in school and in their future careers.

The strategy seems to be working – at least in Quinton's case. The seventh grader wants to be an engineer one day. But for right now, he's content to build and program a robot. As one of his peers says, "Epic."

the 1970s led to the 1975 opening of twin branch libraries Montbello and Hampden. More than thirty years later, thanks to the 2007 Better Denver Bond Program, both received technology upgrades, renovations and infrastructure improvements.

Denver's rapid growth in

In 1975 local artist
Carlota EspinoZa was
commissioned by the
Denver Public Library
to create a mural for the
Byers Branch Library.
The awe-inspiring 20-foot
mural, *Pasado, Presente,*Futuro, was restored by
EspinoZa in 2011.

Epic.

The DPL's ideaLAB is a state-of-the-art digital media creation center where teens learn core STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) concepts through creative expression. The lab was made possible through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Colorado State Library.

In 2013, we had 10,813,807 online visits and provided 127 public access computers for our community.

We connect people to information, ideas and experiences.

When Lap Le and his wife Duong Nguyen Moved to Denver

from Vietnam in 2008 to live with their daughter and her husband, they spoke little English and knew nothing about libraries in this country.

They soon discovered the Hadley Branch Library and the many services it offers including Plaza programs, which provide services to new immigrants. The couple came faithfully to the southwest Denver branch with their daughter and grandkids to practice English and work toward their U.S. citizenship.

"Plazas were designed specifically to help new immigrants with many different needs," explains Pilar Castro-Reino, branch cluster manager.

Plazas provide services to new immigrants and learners who need assistance with information access, English, understanding cultural practices, developing new social networks, using homework resources, health information, computer/technology, job searching and more. Parents can get help while their kids are nearby sharing other program resources with their friends. The entire family can embark on creative pursuits together while at the same time contributing a fresh perspective to our community.

"Kids, parents, grandparents can all come here for support," adds Will Chan, program coordinator of New Immigrant Initiatives for the Library.

Lap Le and Duong Nguyen studied diligently and passed the citizenship exam. He remembers the exact day and place he and his wife took the oath to become U.S. citizens.

"We will always remember," he says proudly. "We love this country. And, we love the Library." Amid the various shapes, textures and colors of the Central Library, the three-story terra cotta drum of the Central Library is located on the south façade, with its windows providing views of the changing landscape of the Golden Triangle.

The Virginia Village Branch moved to its new building on South Dahlia in 1993. The architecture is reminiscent of the site's former occupant, a greenhouse, with its long roofline and abundant windows. A vibrant painting of a chair by artist Susan Cooper welcomes visitors.

"We love this country. And, we love the Library."

Lap Le

In 2013, some 4.3 million customers walked through our doors, each with a story and a personal journey.



In 2013, the Community Learning Plazas received the prestigious Mayor's Award for Excellence in Arts & Culture, recognizing the program's collaborative work and important contributions to the community.

Plaza programs are offered at Hadley, Woodbury, Montbello, Hampden, Ford-Warren and Ross-Barnum Branch Libraries.

Library staff members, front row, left to right: Hadeer Nadeem-Ezzat, Pilar Castro-Reino; Back row, left to right: Amanda Romero, Viviana Casillas, Will Chan (holding award), Edmund Ye Kiang, Johnny Gutierrez and Rinh Pham.

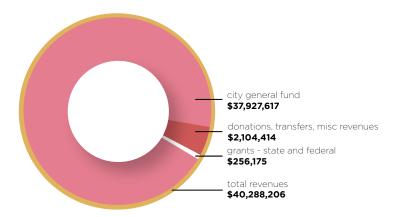


Denver Public Library 2013 financials

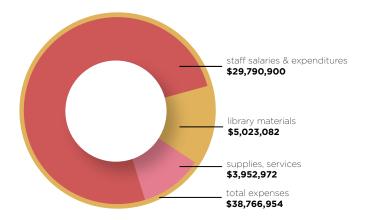
Friends Foundation 2013 audited financials

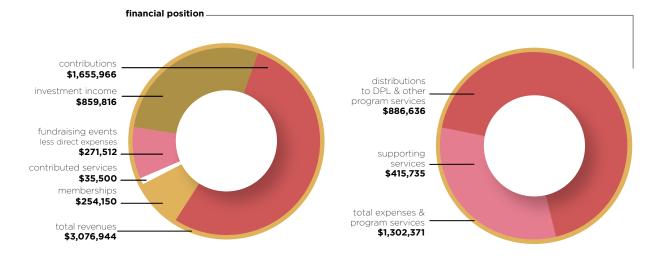
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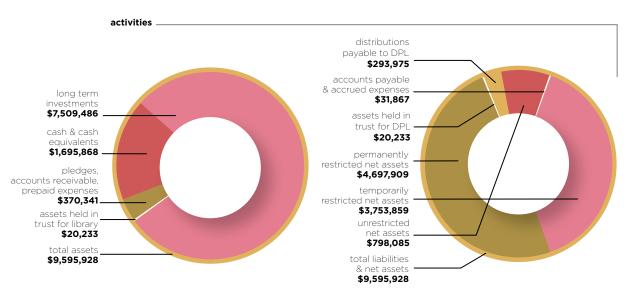
library revenues



library expenditures







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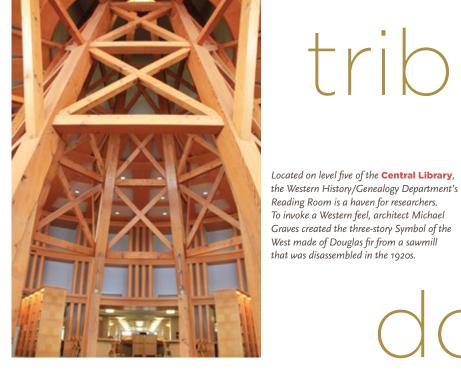
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The book wall sculpture titled, "At the Library," located near the east entrance of the Central Library, was presented to the Denver Public Library by ArtReach, Inc., in honor of Denver philanthropists John E. and Jeannie Fuller.





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Booklovers Ball 2013 Left to right: Ball Chairs Mike & Elizabeth King, Leslie & Bob Sarlo, Rich Grant & Pat Trahey with Claudia & Sid Wilson, Tim & Lesha Van Binsbergen, Booklovers Ball table, Vicki & Paul Wember, Ginger & Jim Halligan

Booklovers Ball 2013 Left to right: Evan & Elizabeth Anderman, Judy & Randy Allender, Chase N The Dream, Mike Cortes & Gloria Rubio Cortes, Paul & Allison Caldwell, Matthew & Priya Burkett, Alex & Kateri Abeyta















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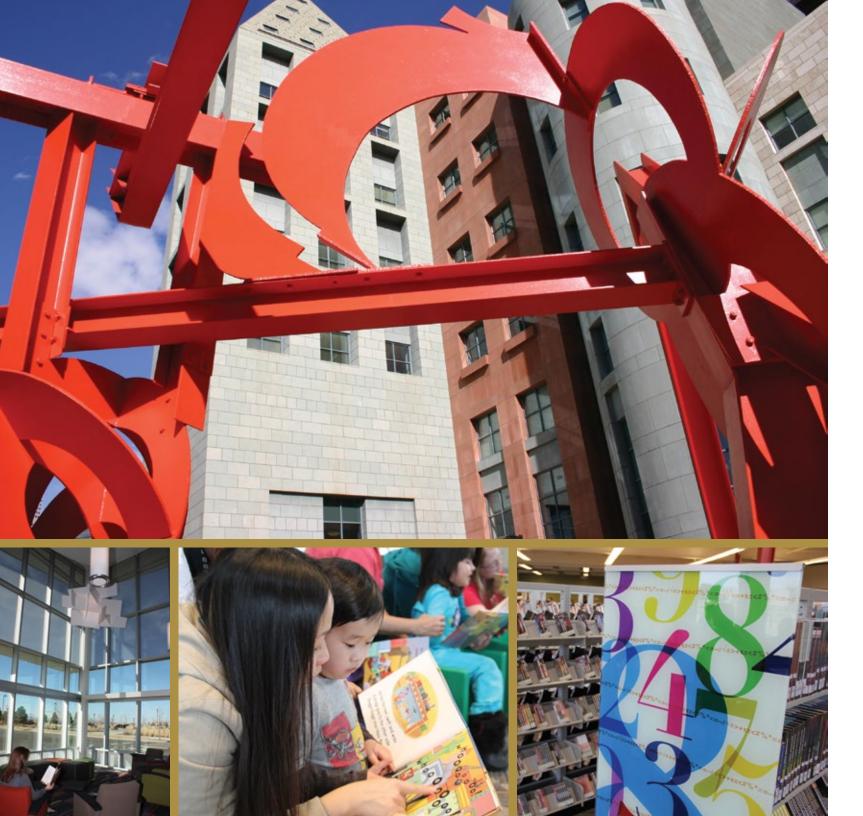
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