

Boulder Public Library

2019

Annual Report

BOULDER
PUBLIC LIBRARY



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Boulder Library Commission

Left to right: Joel Koenig, Juana Gomez, Steven Frost, Jane Sykes Wilson, Tim O'Shea



DIRECTOR

Director's Page

“Connecting people, ideas and information to transform lives and strengthen community.”

Thank you, Boulder, for another incredible year! In these pages, you will encounter many of the remarkable accomplishments we've made in the first year of implementing our 2018 Master Plan. We launched our first formal partnership with BVSD called “Student 1” that allows youth to use their student ID to access online resources from the library. We renovated the restrooms at the Main Library to advance our values as an inclusive institution for all-genders. We eliminated late fees to remove barriers for low-income families who use the library.

I wish I had the space to write about all the positive feedback we have received from the community and staff. In 2019, we launched hundreds of new and exciting programs for the community.

As our mission states, the library is a community connector. The Boulder Library Foundation's generosity and the hard work of staff and volunteers help transform lives and strengthen the community. The library is about literacy in all its forms. I'd like to highlight three programs exhibiting that commitment.

The Boulder Library Foundation provided grant funding to host a Space Camp program for youth in our community at our BLDG61 makerspace. Fifteen youth built four high altitude balloons from scratch, complete with live data tracking. They used basic electronics complete with a GoPro camera to film the launch and ascent. Their record was 104,000 feet, which also made for great video. The program's greatest value was growth and collaboration of a diverse group of youth who had never done anything like this before.

Book Rich Environments is another grant-funded program offered in partnership with Boulder Housing Partners and others. We visited several locations, ate dinner with the neighbors and gave away thousands of free books. My favorite moment was when we told a 10-year old boy that he could have as many books as he liked; he immediately picked up 10 copies of the same book. When someone asked him why he wanted so many of the same book, he said, “I am starting a book club.”

Finally, our award-winning literacy program “BoulderReads” hosts thousands of volunteers who donate their time to help nearly 100 adult learners every year. Each student and volunteer have a story to tell. Consider Maria. She joined the program a couple of years ago and had one learning goal: to meet with her child's teacher without having to use a translator. This year she accomplished that goal. Now she is embarking on a new goal, to become a certified childcare provider. I am confident that with the help of the community she will make it happen.

I hope you enjoy the annual report.

Sincerely,
David Farnan

Library and Arts Director



PROGRAMS

Highlights



INCREASING ACCESS TO ALL

Onsite or online, patrons can enjoy a wide variety of physical or virtual materials including books, magazines, movies, music, research materials and more.

STUDENT 1 INITIATIVE



3

12,667
ACCOUNTS CREATED

The Student 1 Initiative is a partnership with Boulder Valley School District that gives **over 12,000 k-12 students** access to high-quality research databases, using their student ID. Students can also schedule one-on-one consultations with a librarian for research assistance.

CAREER ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL

10 COMPLETED
PREREQUISITE
PROGRAM

Career Online High School (COHS) continues to help people earn a Colorado high school diploma online. **5 students** graduated in 2019. **7 more enrolled** and another **10 people completed** the prerequisite program to enter COHS. In comparison, 1 student graduated in 2018.

“I feel more confident in myself that I was able to earn my high school diploma... I have succeeded in something that was once so hard for me.”

— Jessie, the first Boulder Public Library Career Online High School Graduate

PROGRAMS

Highlights

GOODBYE TO LATE FEES

46,000

PATRON ACCOUNTS

In March of 2019, overdue fines were eliminated and accrued fines removed from **46,000 patron accounts**, increasing equity among library users and allowing those with previously blocked accounts to check out items again.

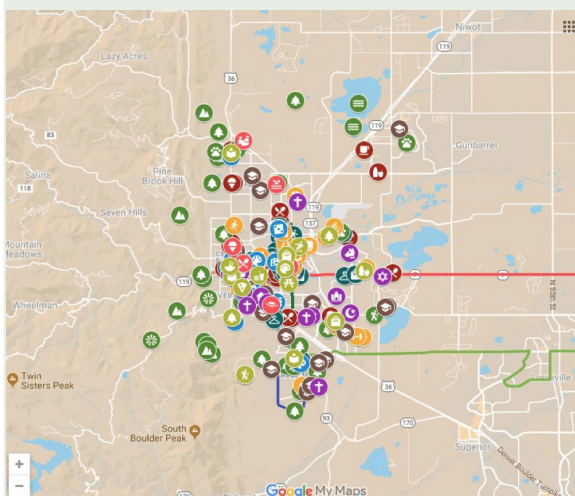
Studies show that late fees disproportionately impact patrons with the least ability to pay. It is estimated that 72% of households in Boulder have an active library card.

“Today I tried to pay my \$0.80 in fines at Boulder Library and was told that they stopped doing fines in March! I love this library so much, but I’m even more proud of it today that fines won’t be an obstacle for users.”

— Chealsye

4

TEEN MAP AND “GROWING UP BOULDER”



Three graduate students from the University of Colorado’s Masters of the Environment Graduate Program partnered with Growing Up Boulder to create an interactive teen map showing safe, fun, easily accessible restaurants, swimming pools, recreation areas and more. **400 Boulder teens** from various backgrounds contributed to the project.

growingupboulder.org/teenmap.html

PROGRAMS

Highlights

BLDG 61—SPACE CAMP



The BLDG 61 makerspace held the first teen Space Camp. Teens collectively built a high-altitude weather balloon that traveled 104,000 feet above ground—that's the edge-of-space! The balloon collected data about our environment and students learned how to launch, track and retrieve data using maker technologies.

INCLUSIVITY

Highlights



RESTROOMS FOR ALL

The 2019 Main Library restroom renovation created more inclusive spaces and improved accessibility, all while emphasizing security and safety for everyone. New murals were created by Monica Cervone McElwain and Chris Huang to enhance the space.

OUTREACH

4,911 community members participated in **51 unique outreach events**, including robot building, weaving, seed planting, sun viewing, button making, bilingual storytimes, yoga, and family coding workshops.

6

51

OUTREACH EVENTS



Highlights

BOOK RICH ENVIRONMENTS

Book Rich Environments is a collaborative effort to bring books to those who need them most. Free, high quality, diverse books are provided to children and families living in HUD-assisted housing. For the first time, the mayor, police officers and firefighters participated with community members at these events. New activities were also added such as a rock-climbing wall and music class.



108

YOUTH (0-18 YRS)
SERVED



3,018

TOTAL BOOKS
GIVEN AWAY



49

DISTINCT
HOUSEHOLDS
SERVED

270

PEOPLE ATTENDED THE KICK-OFF EVENT AND ALL THREE GIVEAWAYS

NEW NORTH BOULDER BRANCH LIBRARY

A full-service library in north Boulder has long been in the plans. In 2019, BPL and the community took some huge steps forward in planning and designing the new branch.

ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

JANUARY

WORKac architect, Dan Wood, presented the design concept to the Library Commission.

MARCH

The community provided input about WORKac design concept at engagement events.

APRIL

Planning Board held a public hearing on the Concept Plan. 50 community members provided input at What's Up Boulder about the new library.

MAY

WORKac presented a large-scale model of the new library that was updated based on the community input received.

CELEBRATE

Highlights

NOBO'S 5TH BIRTHDAY

The community gathered to celebrate **NoBo Library's 5th Birthday**, complete with face painting and a live music group, Las Dahlias. **100 people attended** – almost **70 people at once** into NoBo's tiny space!



100
PEOPLE
ATTENDED

CARNEGIE LIBRARY FOR LOCAL HISTORY

3,000
INTERVIEWS

Boulder Valley School District donated over **3,500 school censuses** dating from 1875 through 1964 and listing students in **66 districts** in the Boulder area. Each record is now available online in a searchable database.

The archive now has over **3,000 interviews** in the Maria Rogers Oral History collection!

VOLUNTEERS

Highlights

VOLUNTEERS

985

Volunteers are critical to BPL's success in serving our community.

985 volunteers donated **22,335** service hours at a value of over **\$600,585**.

Examples of the impact of our volunteers' service include:

16

16 VOLUNTEERS MENTORED MORE THAN **90** MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT NATIONAL HISTORY DAY.

33

33 MARIA ROGERS ORAL HISTORY VOLUNTEERS **CREATED 33 NEW ORAL HISTORIES**, AVAILABLE ONLINE.

55

55 VOLUNTEERS MADE AVAILABLE **35,000** DONATED BOOKS, DVDS AND CDS AT OUR USED BOOKSTORE AND SALES.

83

83 VOLUNTEERS DONATED **4,122** HOURS OF ONE-ON-ONE LITERACY AND LANGUAGE TUTORING.

94 adult learners accomplished so much, including getting a driver's license or green card, winning Rotary Learner of the Year, teaching a community college course, buying a home, starting a café and more!

73

73 TEEN VOLUNTEERS GAVE **1,095** HOURS TO REGISTER **3,365** CHILDREN FOR SUMMER OF DISCOVERY.

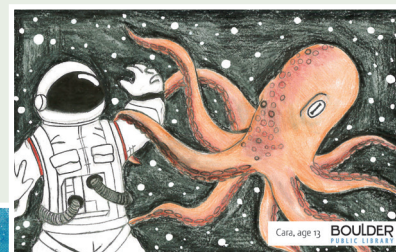
57

57 HOMEBOUND DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS **DELIVERED 8,000** LIBRARY MATERIALS TO OUR HOMEBOUND PATRONS.

CARDHOLDERS

Statistics

133,406
Cardholders



Examples of 2019
library card designs
submitted by children.

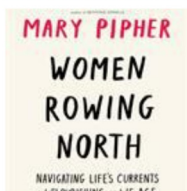
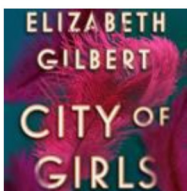
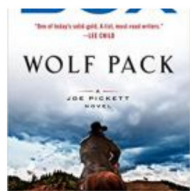
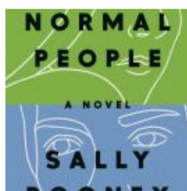
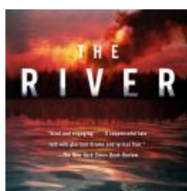
CIRCULATION

BPL borrowed over **136,000 books** from FLC and Prospector and loaned over **98,000**. Lots of work on filled holds!

1,856,404
ITEMS BORROWED,
INCLUDING DIGITAL

“We still check out books regularly and use the hold shelf—which in and of itself is an incredible gift, especially for busy parents who need to do it all online, then grab and go. Thank you, library staff and volunteers, for making this one of our favorite places in the city.” — Sarah

TOP 10 CHECKOUTS OF 2019



1. “Normal People” by Sally Rooney
2. “Wolf Pack” by C.J. Box
3. “City of Girls” by Elizabeth Gilbert
4. “A Better Man” by Louise Penny
5. “The River” by Peter Heller
6. “Women Rowing North: Navigating Life’s Currents and Flourishing as We Age” by Mary Pipher
7. “The Testaments” by Margaret Atwood
8. “The American Agent” by Jacqueline Winspear
9. “The Dutch House” by Ann Patchett
10. “Daisy Jones & The Six” by Taylor Jenkins Reid

COMPUTERS & VISITORS

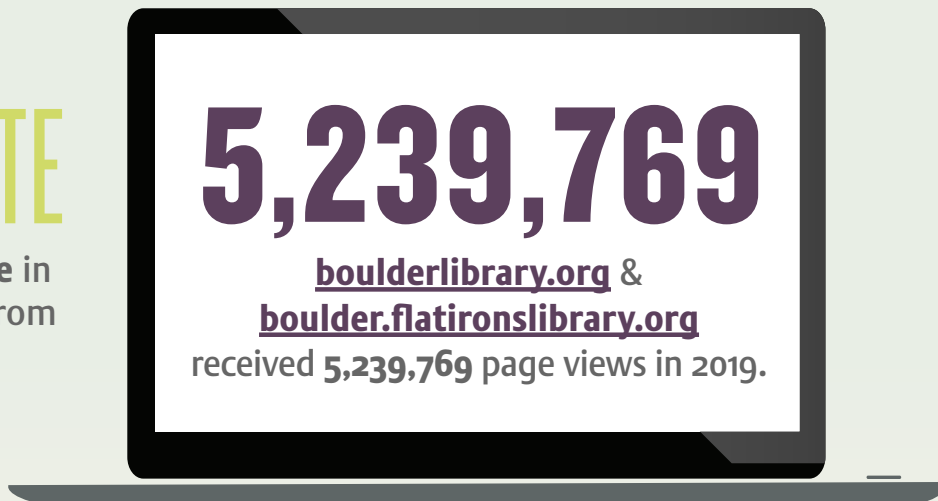
Statistics

WEBSITE

1.6% increase in
page views from
2018 to 2019

5,239,769

boulderlibrary.org &
boulder.flatironslibrary.org
received **5,239,769** page views in 2019.



12

TOP 5 MOST VISITED WEBPAGES

1. Boulder Public Library Home – **662,890** page views
2. Carnegie Library for Local History search results – **177,985** page views
3. Library Event Calendar – **112,412** page views
4. Meeting and Study Room Space Availability – **58,723** page views
5. Your Library Account – **51,433** page views



VISITORS

1,000,414

BPL served **1,000,414** visitors.

COMPUTERS & VISITORS

Statistics

PROGRAMS & EVENTS



2,000

pollinator buttons
made at the Boulder
Bee Festival.

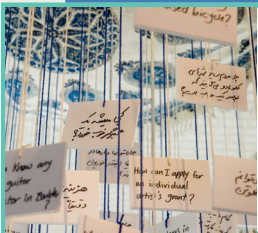
4,450 | 103,000

Over **4,450 events** across
all facilities, with over
103,000 attendees.



35

pumpkins painted during a fall outreach
with Boulder Housing Partners.



18

local artists visualized city data
sets in the exhibition "Art of Data".



275

BVSD students performed as part of the
Library Concert Series in December alone!

217

patrons
spooked
at George
Reynolds
Branch
Haunted
Library.

MEETING & STUDY ROOMS

Statistics

2 MAIN LIBRARY STUDY ROOMS

Time occupied: **74.7%**

4 MEADOWS BRANCH LIBRARY STUDY ROOMS

Time occupied: **64.3%**

GEORGE REYNOLDS BRANCH LIBRARY STUDY ROOM

Time occupied: **64.6%**

STUDY ROOMS

10% increase in study room time occupied at branch libraries compared to 2018 occupancy rates.

“Wow! What an amazing place. We are able to use [BPL’s] meeting rooms for our small company meeting.”

— John, local business owner

14

MEETING ROOMS

MAIN LIBRARY MEETING ROOMS

Unique users: **1,466**

Time occupied: **64.2%**

MEADOWS BRANCH LIBRARY MEETING ROOMS

Unique users: **252**

Time occupied: **64.2%**

GEORGE REYNOLDS BRANCH LIBRARY MEETING ROOM

Unique users: **238**

Time occupied: **45.6%**

PARTNERSHIPS

Statistics



SEEDS LIBRARY CAFE

Five years after opening, Seeds continues to be a strong partner with BPL. Staff from Seeds helped lead monthly “Adultology” cooking classes that focused on local, seasonal and sustainable food and gardening.

15

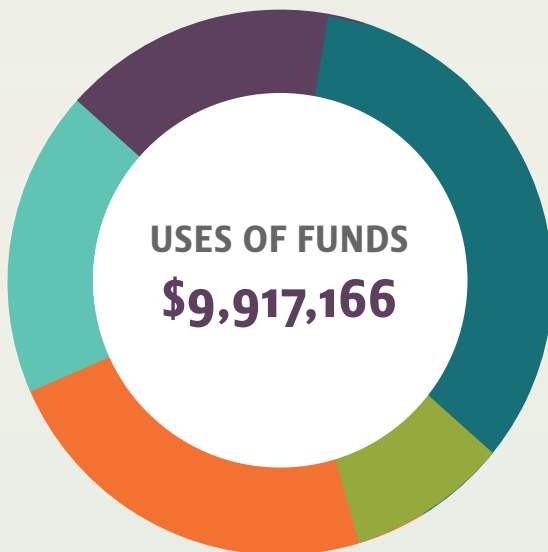
GROW WITH GOOGLE

BPL hosted the “Grow with Google” event with workshops and mentoring for the Boulder community. Governor Jared Polis opened the event with over 200 participants. Educators, students, and entrepreneurs learned about new tools from Google. This partnership event empowered the community and worked to bridge the digital divide.



SOURCES & USES OF FUNDS

City of Boulder budget information for BPL.



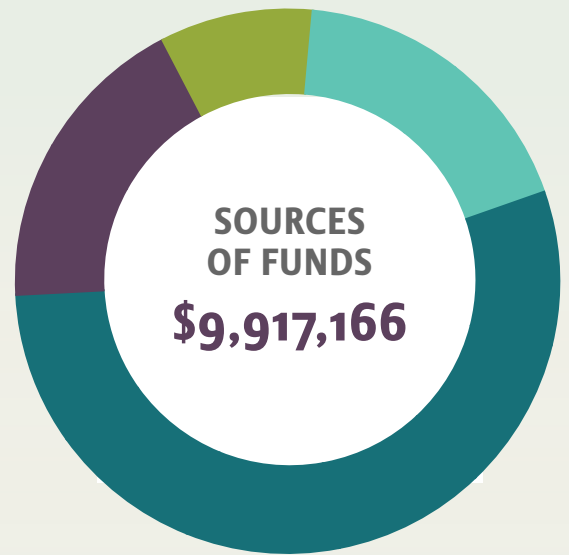
SALARIES & BENEFITS **\$5,758,201**

LIBRARY MATERIALS (COLLECTIONS) **\$1,106,724**

PROGRAMS & OUTREACH **\$250,000**

FACILITIES & OVERHEAD **\$1,781,065**

CAPITAL **\$1,021,176**



CITY GENERAL FUND **\$7,086,328**

LIBRARY FUND (INCLUDES PROPERTY TAX)
\$1,459,662

REVENUES & GRANTS **\$350,000**

CAPITAL **\$1,021,176**



**Amounts are 2019 approved, allocated amounts. Does not include revenue collected during the year or carryover from the prior year for projects.*

FUNDS

Grants & giving

\$350,245

Boulder Library Foundation grants.

\$26,015

Colorado Department of Education
State Grant for Libraries.

\$6,247

Warner Trust for children's and adult
book collections.

\$1,500

Moore Family to BoulderReads.

Several generous anonymous donations were made directly to the
Boulder Library Foundation on behalf of the Boulder Public Library.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

GRANTS & GIVING

Financials



BOULDER
LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

BOULDER LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Foundation funds over 90% of all library programs. 2019 contributions included signature events like the Jaipur Literature Festival and Summer of Discovery, the cinema and concert series, BLDG 61, programs for all ages at all of our locations, student scholarships for Career Online High School, Reading Buddies and Carnegie staffing, the Carnegie oral history program, and more.

BOULDER PUBLIC LIBRARY



boulderlibrary.org