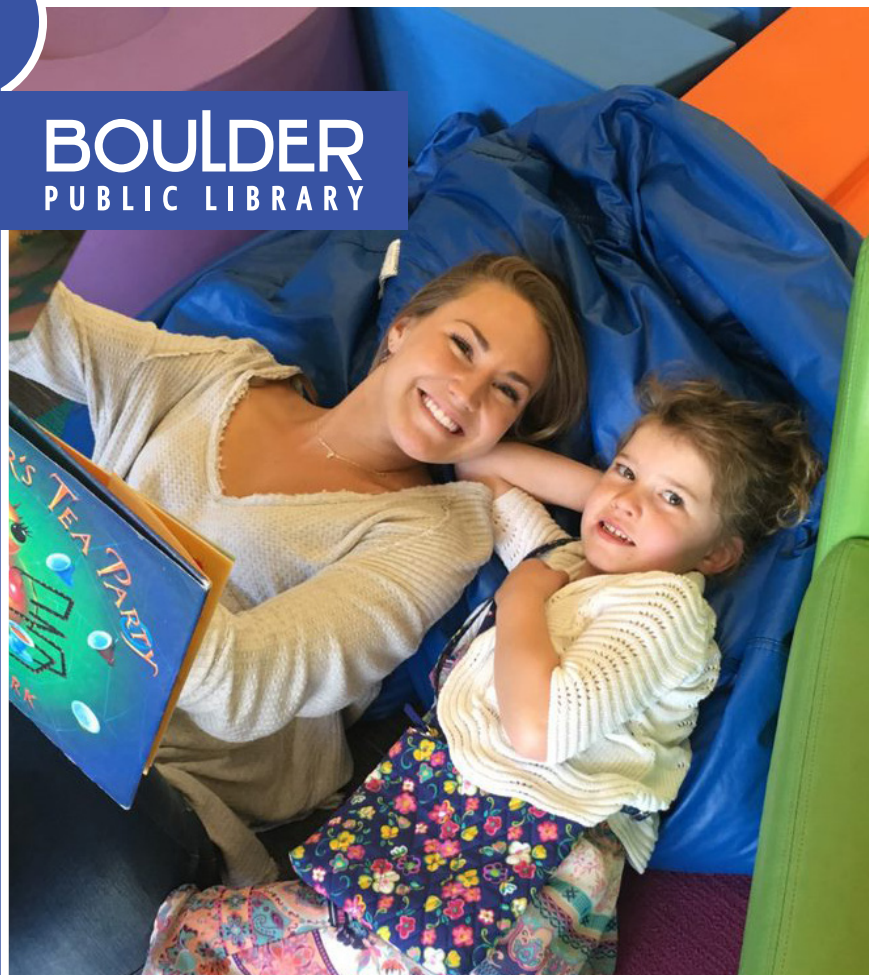


Boulder Public Library

2022

Annual Report

BOULDER
PUBLIC LIBRARY



HIGHLIGHTS

Director's Page



Libraries are aspirational. In good times and bad, they reflect the way we see ourselves and see our community. Our 2022 annual report is a time to look back and also forward. Each year, I have the privilege to reflect on our previous year's accomplishments and share my thoughts about whether we are continuing to meet our mission: "connecting people, ideas and information to transform lives and strengthen our community."

Last year, like many before it, was an eventful one. In November 2022, Boulder voters passed a citizen-initiated ballot measure to create a Boulder Public Library District, which secured dedicated funding for the library for years to come. The vote was the culmination of a 30+ year long discussion about how to support a vibrant, innovative

and inclusive library and reflected the tireless work of many dedicated volunteers. It is certainly a major accomplishment and stands out from the day to day and year to year work the library does. But it does not overshadow that work.

The importance of libraries is measured through the services we offer and our commitment to collaboration and respect. Each day there is reason to acknowledge and celebrate the dignity and resourcefulness of members of our community. It is their work that defines what the library is and gives the library mission meaning.

Let me tell you just one story. In the months just prior to the pandemic, a mother of four came to the library and signed up for BoulderReads – our adult literacy program. She shared her story. She told us that she had never completed high school and explained that her oldest son showed little interest in education. She set a goal to prove to herself that she was capable. And she made a bargain with her son: "I will finish high school if you finish." In 2022, she completed her Colorado Online High School Diploma through BoulderReads and the Boulder Public Library with grant funding from the Boulder Library Foundation. Raising four children through a pandemic seems like enough. To do so while also earning a high school diploma is a true accomplishment. Her name is Hope Angulo. Her story gives meaning to the work we all do. Hope is why libraries exist.

In an interview, Hope said; "My son never dropped out. I am a very proud mother. My eldest graduated from high school. And I am proud of myself. My future plans are to find a well fit and paying job so I can support my family. I would like to be more self-sufficient."

Please enjoy reading the Boulder Public Library 2022 Annual Report. I encourage you to review the data and stories presented in the following pages. As we emerge from the pandemic and into a slightly new form, it is my hope that the good work we do continues.

David Farnan
Library Director

HIGHLIGHTS

Programs

BY THE
NUMBERS

33,667

120

LGBTQ + focused
books were given
away during
Book Queeries.

Patrons
attended on-site
events, 5,568
attended off-site
programs.

500

More than 500
artists presented
their artwork in
the libraries.

160

Patrons pet baby goats
at “Meet and Bleat:
Goats at the Library”
during Summer of
Discovery.

27

Helmets were
given away at the
Bicycle Rodeo with
Boulder Police.

90

Nearly 90
cupcakes were
decorated during
the Nailed It!
tween/teen
competition.

150

Over 150 community
members swapped
seeds for their
gardens.



HIGHLIGHTS

Programs

SUMMER OF DISCOVERY



1,800
Participants

Minutes
read

2,075,719

1,871
Volunteer
hours

625 more patrons participated in 2022 compared to 2021, almost a 16% increase.

119 teen and 24 adult volunteers gave 1,871 hours of service, the most ever! These volunteers registered participants online and handed out prizes during the program.

There were 49 public programs for patrons of all ages with more than 1,800 participants.

2,075,719 minutes read by participants cumulatively during the summer.

HIGHLIGHTS

Programs

BOULDERREADS LITERACY FOR ALL



2022 was a year
of growth and
renewed
opportunities
for BoulderReads
learners.

The iconic Reading Buddies program returned after the pandemic hiatus with 40 Little Buddies (kids ages kindergarden through 3rd grade) and Big Buddies (CU student/community volunteers) meeting in pairs weekly throughout the fall at University Hill Elementary and the Main Library.

A new pilot high school equivalency preparation class in Spanish was offered to improve access to secondary education for patrons whose primary language is Spanish.

The popular Conversations in English groups continued to grow and positively impact learners in Boulder County and beyond.



JAIPUR LITERATURE FESTIVAL

The Jaipur Literature Festival returned in-person to the library for the first time since 2019. The festival was only online during the pandemic. More than 1,000 attendees enjoyed two days filled with author talks, music and other cultural offerings.

HIGHLIGHTS

Outreach

FESTIVAL DE NOBO

1,200

Books
given away

16

Community
organizations

120

Attendees



Festival de NoBo, a fun community event featuring a book giveaway, face painting, puzzle decorating, a costume swap, food trucks and a tour of a fire engine was a **collaboration among 16 community organizations. More than 120 attendees enjoyed the festivities and approximately 1,200 books were given away!**

The Boulder Library Foundation made the event and book giveaway possible by a generous \$5,000 grant and Out Boulder donated 20 bicycles which were given to children for free during the event.

HIGHLIGHTS

Volunteers

653 volunteers
gave 16,125 hours,
a value of \$508,098.

653
Volunteers

\$508,098

Value

But the numbers only tell a part of the story, the efforts of our volunteers are far reaching – their energy, ideas and passion have an invaluable, positive impact in our community! The Library is very grateful for their dedicated service.

16,125
Service hours



5

Summer of Discovery: 119 teen volunteers and 24 adult volunteers gave 1,871 hours to register patrons in summer reading and activity challenges.

"It was good to bring culture on that scale into Boulder."

— JLF volunteer

Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF): 130 volunteers gave 850 hours and their talents to bring back the first in-person Jaipur Literature Festival of Colorado since 2019.

Conversations in English (CIE): Volunteer facilitators gave 1,038 hours to lead online and in-person conversation sessions 6 days a week.

"I thoroughly enjoy the varied group of people I meet with every week for English conversation. I have gotten to know some of the individuals and we genuinely enjoy each other's company and support."

— CIE volunteer

HIGHLIGHTS

Services

WIFI HOTSPOT PROGRAM

In a continued partnership, the Library and the City's Housing and Human Services Department extended the popular WiFi Hotspot program allowing patrons to check out hotspots from the library for home use free of charge.

Patrons borrowed the 30 hotspots approximately 150 times during the year. At any given time, an average of 30 patrons had holds on the hotspots.

Funded entirely by private, state and federal grants, the program will continue through 2023.

"I have internet at home, but the signal isn't strong enough for me to work from home on my computer. The library hotspot has enough bandwidth to keep me connected to my employer all day!"

— a WiFi hotspot patron

6

Check out a

Culture Pass

Free with your
library card

Access to local
cultural attractions

CULTURE PASS PROGRAM

Free or low-cost access to explore six of Colorado's art, history and cultural attractions is available to patrons through the Culture Pass program.

Between August and December while the program was piloted, community members borrowed the passes 400 times!

HIGHLIGHTS

Services

NEW MAIN LIBRARY CAFÉ PARTNER



After the 2021 closure of the Seeds Library Café, a successful partnership between the Library and the Boulder County Farmers Market, a search for a new café vendor commenced. **Extensive community outreach yielded interest from 15 entrepreneurs and local independent food and beverage purveyors.**

Tonantzin Casa de Café, a Latinx, woman-owned business whose focus is on building community with Latin and Indigenous inspired food and beverages was selected for the new partnership. Renovation of the café was completed at the end of the year and Tonantzin Casa de Café opened in early 2023.

MAIN LIBRARY CANYON THEATER RE-OPENED

The Main Library Canyon Theater is once again available for library programs and community use after a two-year closure related to the economic impacts of the pandemic that resulted in reduced staffing. A new theater manager is coordinating larger scale library programs, community-sponsored events, and rental of the space for use by community members and groups.

HIGHLIGHTS

Services



GEORGE REYNOLDS BRANCH LIBRARY REFRESH

The George Reynolds Branch Library received a refresh and reconfiguration that transformed the space into the neighborhood's living room. Work focused on highlighting the building's architecture, while making the space far more functional and inviting. A newly positioned children's space takes advantage of natural light, beautiful windows and is adjacent to the improved teen space which provides better flow and function. New study rooms and a repositioned adult and computer space achieve a more inviting entry, highlights popular library collections and provides better accessibility to staff and reading and lounge spaces. The south Boulder community has given glowing reviews!

HIGHLIGHTS

Circulation & Use

529,733

Visitors across
all locations

1,719,266

Total circulation
including physical and
digital formats

1,073,273

Physical item circulation

645,993

Digital formats and
database use (Overdrive,
Kanopy and research/
creative databases)

518,510

Circulation of
children's materials

HIGHLIGHTS

Circulation & Use

MEETING & STUDY ROOMS

22,273

HOURS

862 individual users made 9,466 reservations to use the library meeting and study rooms. This equates to **22,273** hours of meeting and study room use!

4,289,993

boulderlibrary.org &
boulder.marmot.org
combined page views

WEBSITE

BPL NEWSLETTER

52,128

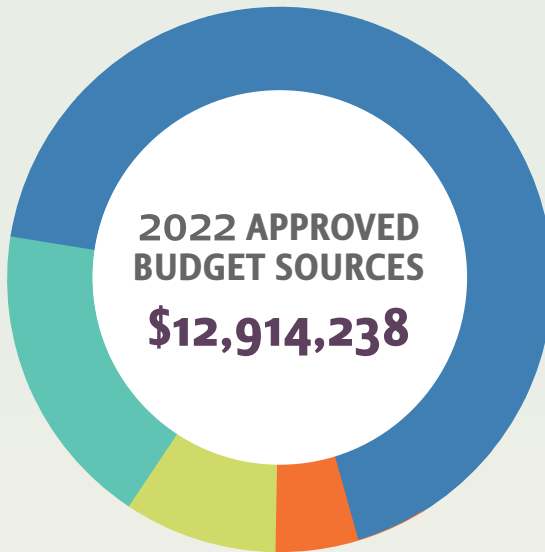
NEWSLETTER

SUBSCRIBERS

HIGHLIGHTS

Financials

City of
Boulder budget
information
for BPL.



CITY GENERAL FUND **\$7,735,794**

CITY MILL LEVY **\$1,119,603**

ONE-TIME GRANTS, GIFTS, &
DONATIONS **\$557,511**

ONE-TIME NORTH BOULDER BRANCH
LIBRARY CAPITAL **\$3,501,330**



PERSONNEL **\$5,761,958**

LIBRARY MATERIALS &
RESOURCES **\$1,156,085**

OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES **\$1,182,175**

NORTH BOULDER BRANCH
LIBRARY CAPITAL **\$408,441**

Noteworthy Budget Increases

The library received an additional \$990,295 from the City General Fund to restore hours, services, and staff positions at the Main Library and three neighborhood branch libraries and to restore operating support and staff positions for the Main Library Canyon Theater and BLDG61 Makerspace.

The North Boulder Branch Library capital project budget was increased by \$3.5 million to address cost escalation for construction labor and materials. Planning and construction of the new branch library span several years and are anticipated to be completed in 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS



BOULDER LIBRARY FOUNDATION

90% of library programs are funded by the Boulder Library Foundation (BLF), including Summer of Discovery, One Book One Boulder, the Winter Reading Challenge, BLDG 61 makerspace, BoulderReads Literacy Program, the Maria Rogers Oral History Project, and the exhibitions program.

140

New donors

335

Total donors

\$915,000

Raised, including the largest-ever grant of \$700,000 from the Colorado Health Foundation for outdoor amenities for the upcoming, new North Boulder Library.

\$27,000

Donated to fund the “Yes on 6C” community-initiated campaign to form the Boulder Public Library District. Voters approved the measure which will generate more than \$17 million annually in property tax revenue to operate and fund capital projects for the new library district.

Granted to the library for programs in 2022.

1,281

New newsletter subscribers, a 63% increase.

\$338,603

HIGHLIGHTS

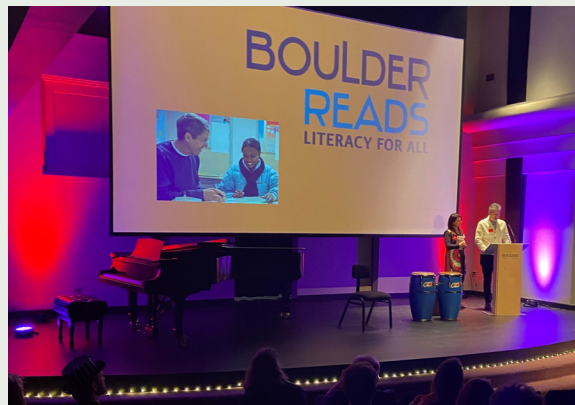


BOULDER
LIBRARY
FOUNDATION



BLF
ANNUAL
GALA

The BLF annual gala was a success despite blizzard conditions that evening. The event featured catering from Tonantzin Casa de Cafe, the Canyon Gallery exhibition “Quantity of Life: Nature/Supernature” and presentations hosted by none other than LeeLee James, a.k.a. ‘Twirling Tech Goddess’. The new BLF Artist in Residence program featuring the Cultural Caravan kicked off that evening and Josh Halpern and the Murciano Chamber provided a musical performance.



BOULDER PUBLIC LIBRARY



boulderlibrary.org