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BPL Commission
L to R: Juana Gomez  |  Alicia Gibb, Chair  |  Joni Teter, Vice Chair  |  Tim O’Shea  |  Joel Koenig
Public libraries are one of the last great promises of a democratic society. We welcome all, provide free and open access to ideas and information, support lifelong learning and literacy for all ages, and offer a platform for people from all backgrounds to come together as a community to discuss and learn from one another. Boulder Public Library (BPL) is proud of our 110-year heritage, and while the things you can do at the library have changed over the years, the reasons people continue to use the library are the same. People come to learn, experiment, think, create and discover for themselves.

2016 was a great year for BPL! We won Colorado Library of the Year, an honor bestowed in recognition of exceptional growth, expanded partnerships and innovative programming. Last year, we welcomed nearly 1 million visitors and another 300,000 visitors online – making Boulder Public Library one of the busiest public places in the city. From Meadows Branch to George Reynolds to the NoBo Corner Library, we are a community gathering place, a destination for family learning, and a trusted access point for information.

Books and children’s programming are still our ‘bread and butter,’ but this past year also saw a host of new programs. The opening of BLDG 61 – our Library Foundation-funded makerspace – was a huge success. In 10 months, the space offered hundreds of programs, welcomed thousands of visitors, inspired several patent applications, and also attracted further grant funding. The Knight Foundation provided funding for ‘Tree Debris to Opportunity,’ a program designed to provide persons experiencing homelessness to learn advanced woodworking skills using locally harvested ash trees infested by the emerald ash borer. And the Littlefield Family Foundation funded ‘Build, Learn, Design, Grow,’ an apprenticeship program for underserved teens to explore design – from building drones to wearable textiles.

These are just a few of our new and creative programs, and as you’ll see by reading this report, book circulation continues to rise, with the biggest growth in e-book downloads. Children’s programs are seeing record attendance, and cultural programming, such as our concert series, Jaipur Literature Festival, and movie series, all continue to inspire new audiences to expand their horizons.

Finally, none of the wonderful things at the library would be possible without public and private support at all levels. The Boulder Library Foundation, now in its 43rd year, continues to be a major source of financial support for library programming. Their new Library League membership program offers a great way for everyone to contribute to the library’s success. Our amazing volunteers contributed nearly 22,000 hours to programs like BoulderReads, STEAM programs, Carnegie Library for Local History, and others. And our partners, like the Boulder County Farmers’ Market, Small Business Development Center, and local tech companies have brought a whole new audience to the public library. Ultimately the library is driven by our community’s support, and each visit contributes to making the library the vital community space it is and was intended to be.
2016 CIRCULATION

Highlights

1,300,000
23%
140,000

Patrons checked out more than 1,300,000 items from BPL.

Use of the digital collection increased by 23%.

More than 140,000 e-Books, audiobooks and videos streamed or downloaded.

BPL also began lending Check-Out Colorado State Park backpacks with free, week-long passes to Colorado’s state parks. This program is offered through a partnership with Colorado Department of Education, the Colorado State Library, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Longmont Public Library and Lafayette Public Library joined the Flatirons Library Consortium of which BPL is a member, expanding the materials available to BPL patrons.

ONLINE RESOURCES

528
More than 528 course enrollments in more than 260 instructor-led Gale Courses.

3,800
Sessions in Mango Languages.

25,294
Look ups in Morningstar Investment Research Center and Valueline.
SUMMER READING PROGRAM

The BPL Summer Reading Program continued to grow. More than 13,000 people participated as registered readers or by attending related programs and outreach events. In 2016, more than 3,000 children and 500 teen readers participated.

JAIPUR LITERATURE FESTIVAL

BPL hosted the 2nd annual Jaipur Literature Festival. This two-day literary festival brought more than 80 internationally acclaimed authors and speakers to Boulder. More than 3,000 visitors enjoyed the free programs and lectures at the Main Library.
BLDG 61 MAKERSPACE OPENING

In February, BPL opened the BLDG 61 Makerspace. This all-ages public workshop, located in the 1961 building of the Main Library, is dedicated to hands-on learning and the cultivation of valuable experiences in the community through making. The makerspace houses a variety of equipment, including 3-D printers, woodworking tools and a laser cutter. In the first year, BLDG 61 reached more than 16,000 people via programs and outreach events.

16,000 PARTICIPANTS

TREE DEBRIS TO OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

The City of Boulder was awarded a $200,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation’s Knight Cities Challenge Grant to train community members experiencing homelessness in the BLDG 61 Makerspace to learn woodworking skills using repurposed wood from trees harvested from city land that were infested by the Emerald Ash Borer. The Tree Debris to Opportunity program (TreeOpp) is a partnership between BPL, Boulder Parks and Recreation and Boulder Bridge House.

#treeopp
BOULDERREADS TURNED 30

Founded in 1986, BoulderReads celebrated thirty years of service. Through the dedicated support of more than 160 trained volunteers, BoulderReads served more than 85 adults and 80 children in 2016. BoulderReads offers several volunteer-led programs including one-on-one adult literacy tutoring, Conversations in English groups and Reading Buddies, a program for children in kindergarten to 3rd grade to build reading, writing and literacy skills.

85 + 80
ADULTS CHILDREN
The Meadows Branch Library was remodeled and reconfigured to provide more useful and comfortable public space and improve patrons’ access to library resources. George Reynolds Branch Library staff workspace was remodeled and reconfigured to improve ergonomics and increase the efficiency of processing library materials. Automated library materials return systems were installed at both branch libraries to accommodate the increase in the number of materials borrowed, and to reduce the time it takes to return materials to the shelves.
In March, BPL launched an online meeting room reservation system to provide patrons with self-service access to reserve the BPL public meeting rooms. More than 1,900 unique users made reservations to hold more than 4,100 community meetings and gatherings in BPL’s meeting rooms. Study rooms were added to the reservation system in November, with almost 1,500 reservations in the last months of the year!

129,120 minutes
STUDY ROOMS RESERVED TIME

357 days, 2 hours, 30 minutes
MEETING ROOMS RESERVED TIME
Volunteers are critical to BPL’s success in serving the community! **620 volunteers** generously donated nearly **22,000 hours** of service to support library operations and programs. An in-kind value of over **$570,000**!

**2016 COLORADO LIBRARY OF THE YEAR AWARD**

BPL was named **2016 Colorado Library of the Year** by the Colorado Association of Libraries. BPL was recognized for successfully reinventing itself as ‘The Place to Be,’ through extensive facility renovations, staff restructuring, and impactful community partnerships. Working with partners like the Boulder County Farmers’ Market, the Jaipur Literature Festival, Small Business Development Center and the local technology and business community, BPL is a platform for community engagement, lifelong learning, and creativity while serving as Boulder’s living room for reading, convening, meeting, and quiet reflection.
**Usage Statistics**

**Hold requests filled** over **200,000**

BPL patrons have access to over **30,000,000** items from more than **40 libraries** in CO & WY.

**TOTAL CIRCULATION**: **1,364,874**

- **MAIN LIBRARY**: 881,809
- **MEADOWS BRANCH LIBRARY**: 210,724
- **GEORGE REYNOLDS BRANCH LIBRARY**: 229,979
- **NOBO CORNER LIBRARY**: 42,362

**140,247** BPL has **140,247 registered card holders** with **13,776 new patrons** who joined in 2016.

**537,538** Total circulation of children’s materials.

**4%** Increase in hold requests filled.
BPL was voted best place for free Wi-fi in 2016 by readers of the Boulder Weekly newspaper.

**VISITORS**

- **982,412**
  - MAIN LIBRARY **665,254**
  - MEADOWS BRANCH LIBRARY **133,602**
  - GEORGE REYNOLDS BRANCH LIBRARY **139,237**
  - NOBO CORNER LIBRARY **41,402**
  - CARNEGIE LIBRARY FOR LOCAL HISTORY **2,917**

- **BPL welcomed nearly 1 million people total at the five library locations during the 352 days the libraries were open.**

**PUBLIC COMPUTER USE**

- **2016**
  - **147,645**
    - MAIN LIBRARY **104,327**
    - MEADOWS BRANCH LIBRARY **20,976**
    - GEORGE REYNOLDS BRANCH LIBRARY **18,516**
    - NOBO CORNER LIBRARY **3,826**

- **BPL welcomed nearly 1 million people total at the five library locations during the 352 days the libraries were open.**
COMPUTERS & VISITORS

Usage Statistics

WEBSITE

3,234,367

The BPL website boulderlibrary.org received 3,234,367 pageviews in 2016, averaging 8,837 views per day!

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

100,000

More than 100,000 patrons participated in BPL programs in 2016.

4,260

Average total of LEGO checked out from Children’s area at the Main Library.

2,800

Hours spent by youth coding and building circuits or robots at the library.

5,056

Books read at storytimes.

504

Workshops, tool orientations and drop-in sessions held in BLDG 61.

12

Ghostbusters from the Fort Collins Ghostbuster Club attended a Friday Film Social.

4

Sensory-friendly concerts geared toward children living with autism and their families.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Room</th>
<th>Unique users</th>
<th>% of time occupied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arapahoe Conference Room</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boulder Creek Meeting Room</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flagstaff Meeting Room</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flatirons Meeting Room</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadows Branch Meeting Room</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Reynolds Branch Meeting Room</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,949</strong></td>
<td><strong>54%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Maria Rogers Oral History Program**

A volunteer-driven program that records interviews with long-time residents and other people knowledgeable about the history of the city and county of Boulder. There are currently **2,071 oral histories** in the online archive.

- **2,071** total interviews in the collection.
- **43** new oral histories collected in 2016.
- **48** oral histories newly available to the public.
- **6,618** visits to the online archive.
- **20,199** times that the oral histories were accessed.
ADULT & CHILDREN’S COLLECTIONS SIZE

TOTAL COLLECTION SIZE

328,343

BOOKS 244,522
E-BOOKS 31,284
PHYSICAL AUDIO BOOKS 7,318
DIGITAL AUDIO BOOKS 13,501
MUSIC CDS 8,321
DIGITAL MUSIC 2,179
DVD MOVIES 17,894
DIGITAL MOVIES 3,006
PHYSICAL MAGAZINES 254
DIGITAL MAGAZINES 64
USES & SOURCES OF FUNDS

2016 City of Boulder budget information for BPL. See the grants section for details about support from other organizations or individuals.

USES OF FUNDS

- SALARIES & BENEFITS $5,084,454
- OPERATIONS $2,126,506
- LIBRARY MATERIALS $971,028
- CAPITAL $3,826

SOURCES OF FUNDS

- CITY GENERAL FUND $6,871,265
- LIBRARY FUND $226,518
- PROPERTY TAX $1,031,430
- OVERDUE FINES & FEES $149,259

$ $$$
Boulder Library Foundation

The Boulder Library Foundation (BLF), a 501c3 organization, has supported the library since 1974. In 2016, the BLF grants funded a wide variety of programs including, the Summer Reading Program, BLDG 61 programs, the concert series, cinema series, exhibits in the Canyon Gallery, Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math (STEAM) programs, and many more. The Library League of Boulder, a membership program, was launched by BLF in 2016 to engage Boulder community members to actively support and fund the library programs. The League has over 300 members.

GRANTS

Financials

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

$250,500  Boulder Library Foundation Grants.

$32,500  Jacques M. Littlefield Family Foundation Grant.

$26,518  Colorado Department of Education State Grant for Libraries.