

RESTROOM REMODEL

The Boulder Public Library is renovating the restrooms on the first and second floors of the south side of the Main Library. The project is estimated to take eight weeks from the start date (end of May). The restrooms on the north side of the building will remain open during construction. The public restrooms currently receive greater use than they were originally designed for and no longer meet the functional needs of most users. The bathroom restoration project includes colorful murals, upgraded fixtures, privacy and comfort to all users. This display shares more about project's benefits.

UNIVERSAL DESIGN

Universal Design is the design of a product or environment so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size or ability.

An example of universal design is the automated door. Having a door open as you approach increases accessibility regardless of a person's situation – whether they may be using a stroller, a wheelchair or carrying an armload of groceries, for example. Embodying elements of universal design is central to the bathroom remodel project.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT



History is a testament to the fact that the future can be different from the present.

For example, racially segregated bathrooms were once the norm. The creation of public spaces that foster diversity and inclusion depends on first identifying and then overcoming the deep-seated historical and ideological forces that have shaped the design of the spaces of our everyday lives. Sex-segregated bathrooms represent one instance of the way the discipline of architecture reinforces and naturalizes the gender binary. Architecture is complicit by making this idea seem inevitable by giving it spatial expression in a room that we inhabit every day of our lives. The message that gender is a binary, rather than a continuum, is drilled into us every time we choose between one of two bathroom doors.

ADA COMPLIANT

The new bathrooms will have larger stalls and increased space, making it more accessible to people with disabilities. The bathrooms will now be ADA compliant, with new amenities and improved functionality.

One example is bringing the child changing tables into the common area and out of the largest stalls, allowing that space to be used by patrons who may need more room.

CARE OF THE COMMONS

All gender bathrooms increase safety by consolidating more people in one area rather than separate spaces, meaning more opportunities to hold each other accountable for “dignified restroom etiquette”*. It also facilitates more frequent checks by the library’s security staff, making the space safer for all.

*Encourages positive behavior and “dignified restroom etiquette”

FAMILIES, PARENTS, GUARDIANS

Multi-stall, all gender bathrooms benefit families and single caregivers allowing them to accompany their children regardless of their gender. Rather than separating to use sex-segregated facilities, which can pose a safety risk, all members of a group will be able to enter the bathroom together.

The changing tables and the toddler ‘jump seat’ will have their own custom location in the main area of the all gender restroom rather than inside a toilet cubicle, allowing siblings and multiple children to be safe and looked after by a caregiver.

EQUITY FOR NON-BINARY OR TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

All people should be able to peacefully use the bathroom. For gender nonconforming people, bathroom usage is not a simple action. It can have health and personal safety impacts. According to a 2013 Williams Institute study*, roughly 70% of trans or gender nonconforming people reported being denied entrance to, assaulted or harassed while trying to use a restroom. That same study showed that 54% of transgender people suffered adverse health effects like urinary tract or kidney infections from avoiding public restrooms. Gender-inclusive bathrooms have emerged as a safe, inclusive alternative where gender nonconforming people and others can have biological breaks without the fuss over a label.

*<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Herman-Gendered-Restrooms-and-Minority-Stress-June-2013.pdf>

PRONOUN PIN PROJECT

The pronoun pin project respects individuals and their right to identify with pronouns of their choice. You can't always know someone's pronouns by the way they look. The pins allow us to know each other's preferred pronouns and show respect for everyone's gender expression.

Please take pins of your choice!



Handy Guide to Pronouns

These are just some of many pronouns people use to describe themselves! If you're not sure what pronoun somebody uses, ask! A good way to ask is: "What are your preferred pronouns?"

For more information, e-mail us at itgetsbetteryk@hotmail.com

he - his - him

He went to the store to buy himself a hat. I saw him wearing his hat today.

she - her - her

She went to the store to buy herself a hat. I saw her wearing her hat today.

ze - hir - hir

Ze went to the store to buy hirself a hat. I saw hir wearing hir hat today.

ze - zem - zir

Ze went to the store to buy zirself a hat. I saw zem wearing zir hat today.

they - their - them

They went to the store to buy themselves a hat. I saw them wearing their hat today.

ey - eir - em

Ey went to the store to buy emself a hat. I saw em wearing eir hat today.

She/her/hers

He/him/his

They/them/theirs

Xe/xym/xyrs

Ze/hir/hirs

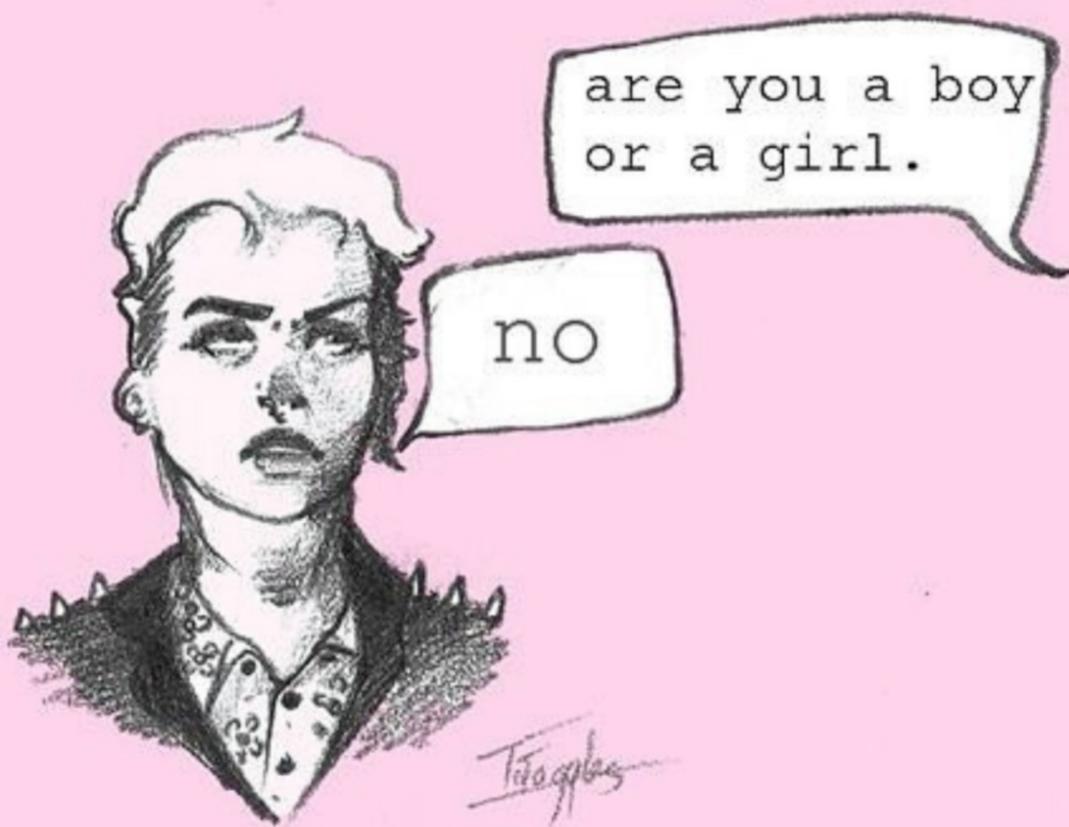
EQUITY FOR NON-BINARY OR TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

Statistics* on sexual assault in restrooms show no incidence of assaults where the perpetrator was a transgender person using a restroom corresponding to their gender identity, while 70% of transgender people reported facing harassment or assault while trying to use a restroom in the District of Columbia.**

*Bianco, Marcie (2, April 2015). "Statistics Show Exactly How Many Times Trans People Have Attacked You In Restrooms". Mic. Retrieved 2, April 2016.

**Herman, Jody L (June 2013). "Gendered Restrooms and Minority Stress: The Public Regulation of Gender and its Impact on Transgender People's Lives (PDF)". Journal of Public Management & Social Policy. UCLA School of Law Williams Institute. Retrieved 2, April 2016.

WHAT GENDER IDENTITY IS + DIFFERENT TERMS



Someone whose gender identity aligns with the biological sex assigned at birth is **cisgender**.

Transgender is an umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from what is typically associated with the sex they were assigned at birth. Transgender individuals may have the bodies of one sex, but a gender identity usually associated with the other.

A **gender nonconforming** person is someone whose behavior or appearance does not conform to prevailing cultural and social expectations about what is appropriate to their gender.

COLORADO LAW

Colorado Senate Bill 08-200 and C.R.S. 24-34-601 etseq., Discrimination in Places of Public Accommodation allows any person of any gender, gender identification or sexuality to access to any restroom in a public facility. All businesses or places subject to discriminatory laws are required to follow this act of non-discrimination.

The Main Library restrooms are designed to facilitate compliance with C.R.S. 24-34-601 etseq.

CAREGIVERS

All gender bathrooms offer dignity and accessibility to people who need assistance from a family member or caregiver who is of a different gender to use the restroom facilities. It also allows groups with a caretaker to use the bathrooms together, increasing comfort and safety.

Removing this stressor that has previously been a barrier to accessing public bathrooms will offer equal access to library patrons of all ages who need assistance.