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Boulder Library Commission

Left to right: Joel Koenig, Juana Gomez, Steven Frost, Jane Sykes Wilson, Tim O’Shea
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
Onsite or online, patrons can enjoy a wide variety of physical or virtual materials including books, magazines, movies, music, research materials and more.

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 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
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

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.

[Link to the teen map](https://growingupboulder.org/teenmap.html)
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.
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.

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.
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.

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.
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!

CARNegie LIBRARY FOR LOCAL HISTORY

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 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 VOLUNTEERS MENTORED** more than 90 middle/high school students at National History Day.
- **33 MARIA ROGERS ORAL HISTORY VOLUNTEERS** created 33 new oral histories, available online.
- **55 VOLUNTEERS MADE AVAILABLE** 35,000 donated books, DVDs and CDs at our used bookstore and sales.
- **73 TEEN VOLUNTEERS GAVE** 1,095 hours to register 3,365 children for Summer of Discovery.
- **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!
- **57 HOMEBOUND DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS** delivered 8,000 library materials to our homebound patrons.
“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
10. “Daisy Jones & The Six” by Taylor Jenkins Reid
COMPUTERS & VISITORS

1.6% increase in page views from 2018 to 2019

WEBSITE

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Unique Users</th>
<th>Time Occupied</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Main Library Study Rooms</td>
<td>1,466</td>
<td>74.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Meadows Branch Library Study Rooms</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>64.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Reynolds Branch Library Study Room</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>64.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Study Rooms

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

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

— John, local business owner

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### Meeting Rooms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Unique Users</th>
<th>Time Occupied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main Library Meeting Rooms</td>
<td>1,466</td>
<td>64.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadows Branch Library Meeting Rooms</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>64.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Reynolds Branch Library Meeting Room</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>45.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

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.

USES OF FUNDS
$9,917,166

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.
$350,245  Boulder Library Foundation grants.
$26,015  Colorado Department of Education State Grant for Libraries.
$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!
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.