

## **Proposal and Statement of Support**

In recognition of over 50 years of visionary leadership and the outstanding contributions of Anna Jo Garcia Haynes to improve the lives of children and families in Colorado, this proposal supports the naming of the building at 2851 Tremont Place as the **Anna Jo Haynes Early Learning Center** to preserve her legacy as a civil rights leader, an advocate for women and children, and a driving force for early childhood care and education.



*Anna Jo Garcia Haynes*

Anna Jo Garcia Haynes has spent a lifetime providing visionary leadership to help improve the lives of children in Colorado. Seeing the potential to help Denver's most vulnerable children, Anna Jo spearheaded bringing the Head Start program to Denver in 1965. She founded and serves as President Emeritus of Mile High Early Learning, Denver's oldest and largest provider of subsidized quality early childhood care and education serving low-income children and families. She also co-founded the Colorado Children's Campaign, a non-profit, nonpartisan, data-driven child advocacy organization that has been the voice of children in Colorado for more than 30 years. She is a founding mother and served as the third President of the Women's Foundation of Colorado, the voice of women in Colorado.

When Anna Jo Haynes first planted the seed for subsidized quality early childhood care and education in Denver, few people could anticipate how influential such a program would be. Yet from her passion and dedication grew an organization that has provided more than 45,000 underprivileged children a strong start in life and school. As a result of Anna Jo's farsighted and

strategic leadership, Mile High Early Learning, founded in 1970, has become a national model—serving 500 children daily in seven year-round centers and two drop-in centers, including a center in the heart of Five Points at 2851 Tremont Place. Mile High Early Learning is an Early Head Start and Head Start agency, and has deep roots within the community, partnering with Mental Health Center of Denver, Denver Lions Club, Mile High United Way, and Denver Public Schools among many others.



*Mile High Early Learning President Emerita Anna Jo Haynes with Audacity*

In addition, Haynes has been a driving force in many state and city initiatives, including the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program, Colorado Preschool Program, and Denver Preschool Program, which provides tuition credits to make high-quality preschool possible for every four-year-old in Denver. She has been actively involved in government since chairing the Congress of Racial Equality, which worked to integrate business and education during the Civil Rights Era. She has been a trusted advisor to every Colorado governor and Denver mayor since the 1980's on education and child care matters, has served on Mayor's and Governor's Transition Teams, and serves as co-chair of the Early Childhood Leadership Commission. Haynes has also made a difference at the national level, as a consultant to the White House Conference on Children and Youth, and as a member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues.



*U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King with Mile High Early Learning President Dr. Pamela K. Harris and President Emeritus Anna Jo Haynes*



*Creede Elliott, Mile High Early Learning Alum with President Emeritus Anna Jo Haynes and Metropolitan State University President Dr. Steve Jordan*

Additional board and committee service includes Clayton Early Learning, Denver Early Childhood Council, Denver Foundation, Rose Community Foundation, Hunt Alternatives Fund, Future Black Women's Leadership Institute, and the Circle of Latina Leadership.

Anna Jo's achievements have been recognized in Colorado and nationally. She has received the Susan B. Anthony Award for her work with women; the Hannah G. Solomon Award from the National Council of Jewish Women; YMCA's Martin Luther King Human Dignity Award; a Congressional Tribute by a U.S. Representative in recognition of "civic leadership and invaluable service," and a Statement for the Record by a US Senator. Mile High United Way created an award named for her, the "Anna Jo Haynes Caring about Kids Award," that honors community leaders making significant contributions on behalf of children. She is also the recipient of the 2015 MLK Holiday Commission "Humanitarian" Award, the 2015 Emily Griffith "Legacy" Award, the Urban Peak Maverick Thinkers Award, Metro Volunteers Community Impact Award, and the Bonfils Stanton 2001 Community Service Award.

Anna Jo is a Denver, Colorado native who has dedicated her life to changing life circumstances for vulnerable populations. Anna Jo has not only taken part in major social movements, she has



created and led them, and she serves as a mentor and voice of wisdom for others who are doing the same. While advocating for all of the children of Colorado, she raised five successful children of her own. From civil rights activist to child and family advocate, Anna Jo has championed programs and policies that have changed the lives of thousands upon thousands of people.



*Anna Jo Garcia Haynes*

### **Naming Committee**

**Chairs: Walter Isenberg  
Elbra Wedgeworth  
Pamela Harris**

**Co-Chairs: Brother Jeff Fard  
Celina Benavidez  
Diana Romeo Campbell  
Geri Grimes  
Tracey Lovett  
Tracy Jenkins Winchester  
Darrell Watson  
Karen Mortimer  
Helen Wolcott  
Cleo Parker Robinson  
Marlene De La Rosa  
Monique Lovato**