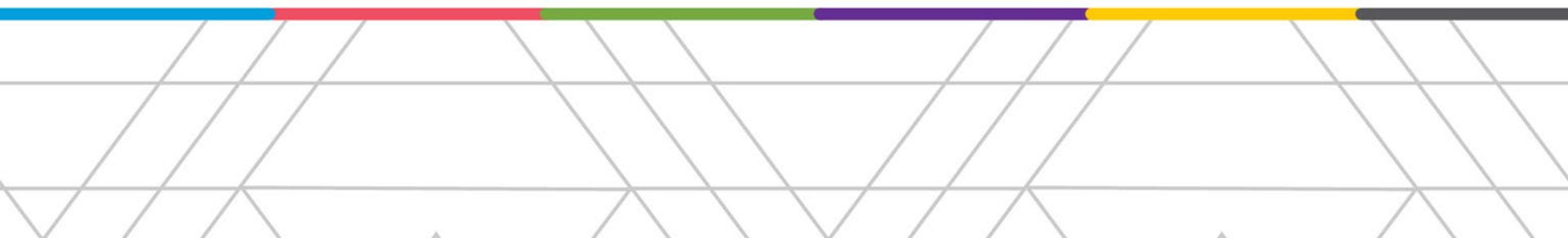




**DENVER  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**

# **2023 Highlights & What's to come in 2024**

**February 21, 2024**  
Michelle Jeske, City Librarian  
Cole Hwa Davis  
Annie Kemmerling  
Rachel Fewell



# Agenda

- I. General 2023 Highlights
- II. Strong Library, Strong Denver: Year 1
  - A. What to expect in 2024
- III. Bond Projects Update
  - A. Elevate Denver
  - B. RISE Denver
  - C. Central Library
- IV. Q&A



# 2023 Highlights

- ★ Year one implementation of Strong Library, Strong Denver, supported by the DPL Fund
- ★ Held first in person Staff Day since 2019
- ★ Bond Projects Progress
  - Shifted services at Central to newly completed Park View event space
  - Completed renovations at Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library
  - Kicked off renovations at Athmar Park and Pauline Robinson Branch Libraries
- ★ Completed several Strategic Roadmap actions including:
  - Free printing and copying at all library locations
  - Increased children's collection on bookmobiles
  - Added new teen spaces

# 2023 Highlights



# Strong Library, Strong Denver: Year 1

- ★ Extended service hours at 17 branch libraries
  - Five branches are now open 7 days a week; the rest are open 6 days a week
  - Increase total services hours by 16%
- ★ Hired 98 internal and public facing staff
- ★ Facility improvements at Westwood Branch Library
- ★ Funded a portion of the Blair-Caldwell renovation
- ★ Adjusted pay for 76% of eligible employees bringing practices into alignment with market rates and experience

**STRONG  
LIBRARY,  
STRONG  
DENVER**

# Strong Library, Strong Denver: Year 1

- ★ Substantially reduced wait times for extremely popular e-book titles - resulting in a 50% reduction in customer wait times
- ★ New digital resources for cardholders: The New York Times online, TheShelf TV, Tutor.com, Freegal Music+, Statista, Craftsy and Craftsy en Español
- ★ Added 1,000 Launchpads across DPL branches
- ★ Funded new Teen Library and Cafe space at Central

The  
New York  
Times



## Looking Ahead to Year 2

- Improvements to digital accessibility, network infrastructure and security.
- Added funding for both physical and digital collections material keeps wait times low and expands selection
- Refreshes happening at Woodbury and Park Hill branch locations.
- The DPL Fund will be supporting the continuation of our Plaza program.
- New online dashboard to demonstrate progress, accountability and share impact stories
- Increased staffing to support the full reopening of our Central Library!

# DPL Renovations





# Bond Projects - Elevate Denver



## Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library

- Underwent a \$3.7 million renovation (supported by the DPL Fund)
- Renovation Scope:
  - First-floor renovation incorporating a new teen space
  - Reimagined children's area
  - New study rooms with amenities
  - Relocation of the circulation desk and new book drop
  - New public art installed on the first floor, which will feature the work of a local artist Sam McNeil
- The library officially reopened to the public on August 8, 2023



# Bond Projects - Elevate Denver



## Athmar Park Branch Library

- Renovation construction is in progress
- \$4,503,745 includes all funding sources (Originally \$2,415,627)
- Project Scope:
  - Building additions such as new study rooms and meeting spaces
  - Increasing branch square footage
  - The branch will also receive cosmetic refreshes such as new interior furniture, carpeting, and paint.
  - There will also be improvements to the buildings' infrastructure including the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system
  - Improvement in the Information Technology system



# Bond Projects - Elevate Denver



## Pauline Robinson Branch Library

- Renovation construction is in progress
- \$3,673,080 including all funding sources (Originally \$1,523,185)
- Project Scope:
  - Increase square footage with an addition to improve the existing restrooms, book drop, community room, staff spaces, youth spaces, flexible learning areas, and shelving
  - Exterior improvements including: landscaping, sidewalks, exterior lighting, parking lot, facade restoration; building system updates to HVAC, electrical, IT, communications, lighting, surveillance, access controls, and life safety
  - Provide new interior finishes, furniture, fixtures, and signage



# Bond Projects - Elevate Denver



## Ross-Barnum Branch Library

- Wrapped up the design phase for renovation. Closure for renovation will be the next phase.
- \$4,231,700 including all funding sources (Originally \$1,543,515)
- Project Scope:
  - Making the basement accessible with elevator installation and life safety improvements; addressing exterior with landscaping, sidewalk, exterior lighting signage, and repairing the facade
  - Exploring redesign of entrances
  - Improving HVAC systems life safety system, surveillance and access control, electrical, IT, communication systems, and ADA compliance
  - Updating interior spaces with new finishes, furniture, and fixtures restrooms



# Bond Projects - Elevate Denver



## Schlessman Family Branch Library

- Currently, the project is in the design phase process
- \$4,468,330 including all funding sources (Originally \$3,004,044)
- Project Scope:
  - Increase square footage
  - Updating/relocating community room
  - Exploring new arrangements for flexible learning spaces
  - Redesigning the children's area
  - Modifying material shelving arrangement
  - Redesigning staff rooms
  - Exploring new arrangements for computers/mobile device access
  - Exterior improvements to research and repair leaking titanium façade panels, replacing the roof, addressing landscaping, sidewalk and exterior lighting
  - Improvements to building systems including HVAC
  - Reducing solar gain on east and south curtain wall, life safety, surveillance and access controls, electrical, data, and communication systems
  - Provide new interior finishes, furniture, fixtures, and signage
  - Compliance with current ADA requirements



# Bond Projects - Elevate Denver

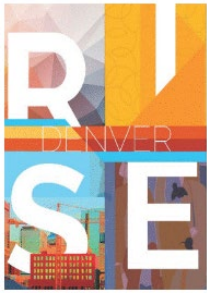


## Ross-Broadway Branch Library

- Currently, the project is in the schematic design process
- \$2,385,069
- Project Scope:
  - Increase square footage with an addition in order to improve the community room, restrooms, children's area, flexible learning spaces, shelving and computer/mobile device access, and staff spaces
  - Exterior improvements to landscaping, sidewalk, exterior lighting, entrance redesign, repair/restoration of facade and oak window frames
  - Redesign/relocation of exterior book drop
  - Improved building systems including HVAC, life safety, surveillance, access control, IT, communication systems, and lighting
  - Interior finish updates including paint, carpet, tile, ceilings, furniture and fixtures, new signs, and ADA-compliant spaces







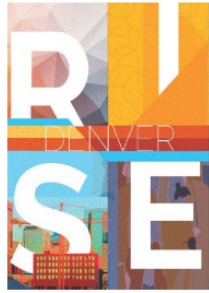
# Bond Projects - RISE Denver

## Lena Archuleta Branch Library in Westwood

- \$13,880,000 for the building construction
- Includes site acquisition, collections and technology
  - The project is in the construction phase
  - Construction anticipated to be complete Q2 2024
  - Branch opening Q3 2024
  - Collaboration between DPL and Lifespan Local (early learning center, hydroponic space, community kitchen, and youth space)



# Bond Projects - RISE Denver



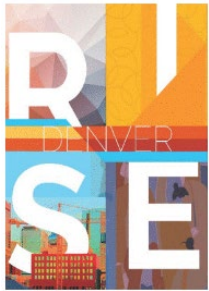
## Globeville

- \$12,000,000 for the building construction, site acquisition, collections and technology
- The City has signed a LOI for 4995 Washington St
- ~10,000 sq ft
- Engaged in design work
- Design phase is on pause as the City of Denver and the Office of Housing Stability (HOST) work through financing options for the overall housing project





# Bond Projects - RISE Denver



## Hampden Branch Library

- Currently project is in the schematic design phase
- \$3,440,000
- Project Scope:
  - Adding 4,000 sq ft to the branch
  - Expand community spaces, public computers, increasing the collection, and expanding the ideaLAB and teen space



# Central Library Renovation



# Our Partners



# Central Library Scope

*Renovation includes significant upgrades to address safety and security issues, correct deferred maintenance, and reconfigure the building for modern library programs, services and resources*

- Budget: \$60M
  - Elevate Denver Bond, Strong Library, Strong Denver, DPL Friends Foundation and other sources

## Completed

- ★ Contemporary large programming space on the first floor with views of Civic Center Park
- ★ Reimagined and relocated Children's Library
- ★ Renovated public restrooms on all floors and all-gender restroom on the first floor
- ★ Modernized elevators

## In Progress

- ★ Brand new teen space
- ★ Grand hall renovation with relocated, centralized service points
- ★ Additional meeting rooms on the second floor
- ★ Deferred building maintenance

# Timeline

- 2017 Elevate Denver GO Bond
  - Central Library and 10 branch renovations approved by voters
- 2018 - 2020
  - Design
  - 50+ Community and staff meetings
- 2020
  - DPL system closes due to COVID
  - While closed, Central Library renovation construction begins
- 2021 - 2024
  - Construction continues
  - Limited public services open at the Central Library (ongoing)
  - In 2022, voters approve Strong Library, Strong Denver
    - Some scope is added back to the Central renovation project

# What to expect in 2024

- 2024

- Q2 Elevate Denver Bond completion
- Q2-Q3 Added scope construction
- Recruitment begins to hire 50 staff members

- Fall 2024

- Short closure to move services, tear down temporary first floor public services, and set up furniture and IT
- Fully reopen the Central Library!







Former children's storytime room



New Children's Library opened in April 2022



Side-by-side  
Rendering  
to  
Actual





The Commons:  
Rendering to  
Actual





New first floor Park View event space looking out over Civic Center Park  
Currently used to provide public service, while construction occurs elsewhere



**Keep up to date with the  
renovation**

<https://www.denverlibrary.org/central-renovation-updates>



Questions?