

Front Porch

Central Park, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, East Colfax, NW Aurora

DENVER, COLORADO

NORTHEAST DENVER

FEBRUARY 2021

3 civic projects in NE Denver—all more than \$1 billion. How did the pandemic impact them?



Photo courtesy of CDOT

The new I-70 bridge over Quebec was built over the original bridge. Quebec closed Friday night Jan. 8, and by Sunday morning the entire old bridge had been torn out and removed.

NE Denver sits at the center of three multi-year mega projects. Together, construction of the new National Western Center, the reconstruction of Central 70, and the renovation and expansion of Denver International Airport total almost \$6 billion. We gathered the essential facts about each project and asked how they were impacted by the pandemic. The answers surprised us.

Story on page 4 by Carol Roberts

DPS To Open Its First HBCU High School



Principal Shakira Abney-Wisdom will open DPS' first Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) model high school in the fall. It is named after East High School graduate Robert F. Smith, engineer, philanthropist and entrepreneur. Story on page 7 by Regan Byrd.

2021 Summer Camp Guide



Photo courtesy of CampGriffen

Check out this year's camps on page 9.

High School Teachers Talk about Our Democracy



Elections and democracy, subjects many U.S. citizens have taken for granted for much of their lives, came to the forefront following the Jan. 6 riot and break-in at the U.S. Capitol and subsequent impeachment. The teachers we interviewed were already passionate about helping their students understand what democracy means even before Jan. 6. What are their thoughts now? Left: NE Denver's U.S. Representative Diana DeGette was interviewed after being selected as an impeachment manager in the upcoming Senate trial.

Story on page 15 by Mary Jo Brooks.



A runner along the Sand Creek trail passes the new mural just west of the confluence of Westerly Creek and Sand Creek. If you haven't visited the Sand Creek Trail recently, it's time to get out and enjoy the improvements that offer something for cyclists, for runners, and for those who simply want to walk quietly along the creek. *Read about Sand Creek on page 14.*

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- Upload and view events in our online calendar
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Events & Announcements

2021 HARRY POTTER LOG-IN

February 4, 5, & 6, Online

Hogwarts is going virtual! To keep all witches and wizards healthy, the MCA will be hosting a virtual Harry Potter Log-In event for all ages this year. Each participant will receive a wizardry kit, with activities and treats, and a Zoom code for access to a reading of the first chapter of the first book by a very special guest from the Wizarding World! Many magical add-ons to choose from when you register for your kit as well as your pickup time when each witch and wizard will have their picture taken at Platform 9¾! Visit www.MCA80238.com to register today!

VALENTINE WINE AND CHOCOLATE PAIRING

Thursday, February 11, (Time TBD), Online

Looking for a fun and safe way to celebrate Valentine's Day this year? The MCA will be hosting a virtual wine and chocolate pairing perfect for lovers, friends, and lone-wolfs alike. A selection of chocolates from Miette et Chocolat will be paired with selected wines from Mr. B's. These local businesses are both located in the Stanley Marketplace. Visit www.MCA80238.com for more details and to sign-up today!

ACTIVE MINDS ONLINE SEMINARS:

Pirates, Tales & Legends. Thursday, February 11, 1-2pm

Pirates occupy a unique place in the popular imagination and have been an integral part of global history for centuries. From the swashbuckling privateers of the Golden Age of Piracy to the modern-day pirates plying the waters off the coast of Africa, pirates are a captivating class of criminal and antihero. Sail with us on the seven seas as Active Minds discuss the history, personalities, and tales of the pirates.

Iraq. Thursday, February 25, 6:30-7:30pm
January 2020 saw missile attacks from Iran targeting American forces in Iraq, sparking the latest round of tensions in a country that has a long history of internal and external struggles. Join us as we review the history of Iraq with an eye toward U.S. involvement that has resulted in an American military presence in the country since the 2003 invasion that toppled the government of Saddam Hussein. We will overlay the complex tensions between Sunni and Shi'a factions of Islam as we seek to understand Iraq's past, present, and future.

Join in the Active Minds webinars by visiting https://www.activeminds.com/events_denver.html

COMMUNITY WEBSITE

The MCA community website, www.MCA80238.com, is an online, one-stop shop for community news, information, and upcoming events. The MCA website is a great way to engage with the community. Whether you are looking for pool schedule updates, board meeting minutes, the calendar of events, links for accessing both Assessment and Active Net accounts, or simply want to contact us, always start at www.MCA80238.com.

Assessment Accounts can be accessed at mca.msihoa.co. Residents can also find the current assessment schedule, ACH form, and other important assessment related resources on our website under What We Do > Assessment Management.

2021 POOL SEASON PREPARATION

New to the neighborhood and looking forward to the 2021 aquatic season?! Start getting prepared today by creating an online Active Net account. Visit www.MCA80238.com and click on **My Active Net** at the top of the page. You'll be redirected to the Active Net site, where you'll want to create an account and provide proof of residency. Account approvals/denials can take up to 48 business hours. Residents with new dependents will also want to add them to their household account in preparation for aquatic program and pass registration. Birth certificates or guardianship paperwork can be sent to signup@MCA80238.com.

Additional membership and aquatic programming info coming in March!

2021 AQUATICS AND EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

The 2021 Sponsorship Brochure is available online at www.MCA80238.com. There are a variety of ways to participate, so check out how you can get your business recognized in the community. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Deeter at ddeeter@MCA80238.com.

If you are not subscribed to the MCA's weekly email newsletter, please sign up via www.MCA80238.com, to ensure all future announcements and pertinent reminders are delivered straight to your inbox.

Carry on bravely,
Lawrence Uhling
Administrative Assistant
luhling@MCA80238.com

Master Community Association

Front Porch

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The Front Porch is printed with soy-based ink and the paper contains 30% post-consumer waste. We contribute monthly to replant trees equivalent to the amount of paper used in each issue.



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By Carol Roberts

While some of us ate, slept, worked, schooled, and recreated within the same four walls for much of the past year, NE Denver residents who frequented I-70 from Brighton Blvd. to the airport saw massive changes. Three separate multi-year billion-dollar projects provided much-needed employment during the pandemic and, at times, progressed faster because so many people and their cars were at home.

National Western Center

What is it and why is it happening? To fund improvements necessary to keep the iconic Stock Show in Denver, voters in 2015 overwhelmingly approved Ballot Measure 2C that extended a tax on hotel rooms and rental cars. In addition, by expanding the grounds, a year-round arts, entertainment, education, and research center is also being developed there through a funding partnership between the City and County of Denver, Western Stock Show Association and Colorado State University. The National Western Center Authority is a new non-profit that will operate, maintain, program, and promote the campus. Denver Museum of Nature and Science and History Colorado will provide additional programming.

How big is it? The original 110-acre grounds are being expanded to roughly 250 acres. By the projected completion of phases 1 & 2 in 2024, the National Western Center will have new and expanded indoor and outdoor spaces including state-of-the-art facilities, historic buildings, and riverfront open space. Additional phases are planned for the future.

How is it funded? The biggest chunk of funds for the 1.2

billion dollar project, about 62%, comes from ballot measure 2C; about 25% comes from CSU for construction of its three buildings; and about 12% comes from a Regional Tourism Act award from the State of Colorado, paid over 36 years.

Some unique features: In addition to new Stock Show facilities, 1) It will be a 21st century, year-round agricultural research center to advance global knowledge about food, water, and health. 2) It will have the largest sewer-heat recovery system in North America—a system that pulls thermal energy from wastewater instead of burning natural gas, dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions. 3) It will have six acres of family-friendly public open space near the South Platte riverfront for recreation and relaxation.

How did the pandemic affect the project this year? And in the future?

Following the tough decision to cancel the Stock Show due to the pandemic, "...we were actually able to make an opportunity out of it by advancing the construction," says Tykus Holloway, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of the National Western Center. Without crowds and livestock, crews continued work on site drainage, relocating railways and utilities, and getting pad sites ready for construction. They followed protocols for Covid-19 and had no outbreaks or slowdowns due to the pandemic. "Right now, the 2021 schedule remains as planned," says Holloway, which includes a bridge over the Platte River, new roadways, and completing the new Stockyards Event Center. Looking further ahead, Holloway acknowledges revenue from the tourism tax and entertainment venues has been impacted and says the City Dept. of Finance will balance the best timing to release bonds with the project's need for funds to proceed with construction.



Central 70

3 HUGE CIVIC PROJECTS IN
How did the pand

Central 70

What is it and why is it happening? 200,000 vehicles a day currently traverse the 10-mile stretch of I-70 from Brighton Blvd. to Chambers Rd. and demand is increasing—but deficiencies exist in the old infrastructure and it lacks the capacity to handle projected future demand.

This 10-mile stretch is being reconstructed to add one new express lane in each direction, remove the aging 57-year-old viaduct, lower the interstate between Brighton and Colorado boulevards, and place a park over a portion of the lowered interstate. Substantial completion is projected for end of 2022.

How big is this project? 20 bridges are being built, and nearly 37,000 linear feet (or about 7 miles) of new sidewalk will be added with the new bridges and roadways including at Colorado, Dahlia, Holly, Monaco, Quebec, and Peoria. Wide



Trains pass through the future National Western Center on the newly constructed rail corridor with the historic Livestock Exchange Building in the background. Construction continues on the Colorado State University Spur campus, which consists of three buildings and opens in 2022.

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Follow links to all these businesses at www.FrontPorchNE.com > Business Directory

Accounting/Taxes	Dori Suess CPA, MBA, LLC	6
Acting Classes - Virtual	Denver Center for Performing Arts	9
Auto	Hello Car Wash	3
Barbershop/Hair Salon	Fantastic Sams	7
Children's Camps	Bluff Lake Nature Center	11
	Camp Galileo - Colorado	9
	Commerce City Recreation Summer Camps	11
	Dream BIG Day Camp	10
	Every Child Reading	10
	Montessori Children's House of Denver	11
	Primrose School	10
	Stanley Marketplace Summer Camps	8
	The Urban Farm	10

Children's Camps (con't)	Ubergrippen Indoor Climbing Crag	11
Churches	Augustana Lutheran Church	13
Community Organization	Central Park Master Community Association	2
Dental	Nestman Orthodontics	2
	Williams Family Dentistry	14
Design and Remodeling	Diane Gordon Design	7
Dispensary	Starbuds	5
Food	Cookie Fix	13
Health and Wellness	Solis Mammography	6
Home Audio/Video	WA.VE, LLC	12
Home Furnishings	Smart Spaces	15
Housecleaning	Number 1 House Cleaning	6
	White Magic Cleaning Services	12

Lawyers	Lewis & Matthews Family Law Firm	13
Medical Doctors	Colorado Kids Pediatrics	12
Pets	Paws-N-Play and Ciji's Natural Pet Supplies	13
Pre-Schools/Childcare	Denver Preschool Program	6
Real Estate	Neir Team-Kentwood City Properties	3
	New Perspective Real Estate, LLC	16
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Delivered free every month—Approximately 23,000 *Front Porch* newspapers are distributed in the Northeast Denver neighborhoods of Central Park — Park Hill — Lowry — Mayfair — Montclair — East Colfax — NW Aurora.

To place ads and inserts, contact Carol at 303-526-1969 or carol@frontporchne.com. Ads are due the 15th of the month. Visit us at FrontPorchNE.com for additional information and to view ad sizes and prices.



Left: The bridge over Quebec is one of 20 new bridges being built on or over the highway in the 1.2-billion-dollar Central 70 project to be substantially completed by the end of 2022.

it Meridiam Partners will operate and maintain the highway for 30 years after completion. 2) Toll rates will be based on keeping the right number of vehicles in the express lanes so travel times are reliable. 3) Swansea Elementary, located next to the viaduct demolition site, got an \$18.5 million renovation. 4) The community was given a \$2 million grant to build affordable housing. 5) 56 residences and 17 businesses in the project right-of-way were acquired by CDOT. 4) The 4-acre park will include sports fields, water features, playground equipment, and other amenities requested by the community.

How did the pandemic affect the project? The governor deemed construction to be essential so the project was not interrupted and hiring continued through the year. Workers followed CDC guidelines and no Covid-19 outbreaks occurred that slowed progress. Workers were divided into crews; if a crew quarantined after a positive exposure, only a small group ended up at home on sick leave.

Project funding was not impacted by the pandemic. With lower traffic volume, Quebec to Chambers got paved in daylight hours, offering much safer conditions for workers than nighttime work.

Denver International Airport

What is the project and why is it happening? The airport (DEN), now 25 years old, was built for 50 million annual passengers. Pre-pandemic it reached 69 million and was projected to hit 80 million by 2025 and 110 million by 2040.

Phase I of DEN's Gate Expansion Program (to be completed in 2021) is building 39 new gates and renewing concourse infrastructure. Phase II concourse improvements (to be completed in 2024) will include renewing restrooms and furnishings and installing new moving walkways and escalators.

Phase I renovation of the Great Hall (to be completed in 2021) is adding four ticketing areas with a total of 82 self-bag drops for United and Southwest, upgrading restrooms, and adding space to improve passenger flow and security. Phase 2 (starting in the summer of 2021) will move the south screening area from level 5 to level 6, make the screening area more secure, and upgrade screening technology.

Size of the project? Each concourse will be expanded by several thousand square feet, increasing gate capacity by 30%. The Great Hall, which has 1.5 million square feet, is adding 16,000 sq. ft. for passenger screening. DEN is the 5th busiest airport in the U.S. and the 20th busiest in the world.

How is it being funded? All projects are part of a \$3.5 billion capital improvement program funded by airport bonds. The Gate Expansion cost is \$1.5 billion, (continued on page 13)

NE DENVER emic impact them?

shoulders are being added for stalled or emergency vehicles

The 1.2 mile viaduct will be torn down and traffic (starting in 2021) will move to the new roadway that gradually goes down 60 feet lower than the current viaduct height (30 feet underground). A 3-block long tunnel will be built in the lowered roadway—and a 4-acre park above it will reconnect the Elyria and Swansea neighborhoods that got separated when the I-70 viaduct was built.

A new express lane system with transponders will let drivers choose a reliable trip for a toll or a general-purpose lane for free. Carpoolers (3+ people) and motorcyclists are free.

How is it funded? This \$1.2 billion project is funded the Colorado Bridge Enterprise (76%), Senate Bill 228 (16%), Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) (5%), and the City and County of Denver (3%).

Some unique features: 1) As a public-private partnership, Kiew-



DIA Renovation

The pandemic has reduced the number of people in the Great Hall, as shown here at mid-day in mid-January. Fewer travelers meant much of the renovation and expansion work could be done during daylight hours rather than on night shifts

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The Power of the HBCU Model Comes to DPS



Regan Byrd is an anti-oppression, anti-racism, speaker and consultant.

By Regan Byrd

Having experienced learning in both majority white and majority people-of-color spaces, tears start to form in Shakira Abney-Wisdom’s eyes as she reflects on the value of belonging. “I just think about the spaces where the expectation is that I would be my full self, versus the expectation that I would erase components of who I am to assimilate to what that space is. I am really excited to create a space where my kids and

my teachers get to be their full selves.” The passion Abney-Wisdom, principal of the newly created Robert F. Smith STEAM Academy in Montbello, feels for her community is evident. Clad in a vivid purple dress, an orange and red necklace that looks like a sunset, and a rainbow headscarf, she exudes the same passion about the power of the HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) model for the new DPS high school—a model that is especially significant for students’ sense of self-worth and belonging.

The new school is named after East High School graduate Robert F. Smith, who is a Black American investor, inventor, engineer, philanthropist, and entrepreneur. “Modeled after Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), with a comprehensive approach that incorporates science, technology, engineering, art, and math,” according to Denver Public Schools’ literature, it adds to the slate of options DPS offers to its students. Like other HBCU style institutions, Robert F. Smith STEAM Academy centers Black/African-American culture and history throughout its design: curricula, educator background and expertise, professional development opportunities, and even school celebrations.

One of the most striking aspects of the school is its interdisciplinary approach to curriculum. Students may be reading a poem in art class that is thematically tied to a text being discussed in English class. Or students may learn about scientific racism and the history of medical experimentation on the black community in history class, and have that tied a real world example in the story of Henrietta Lacks in biology. Content is approached holistically, and topics from one subject flow into the next to give students opportunities to make connections

“When you give choice to people and create an expectation that people belong and will be supported, I think the change is radical.”

—Shakira Abney-Wisdom

and find insights—as well as to empower decision-making that involves multiple variables or truths. Abney-Wisdom cites the example of a clothing store purchase, which involves not only cost considerations, but consideration of one’s personal style, clothing already owned, seasonality, etc. “How we move in the world should have an analogous process in the way we learn,” she posits.

HBCUs have operated in the United states for over 180 years, and the vast majority of them emerged following the Civil War to provide Black Americans with educational opportunities denied to them during enslavement and in segregated educational systems. In many ways, the creation of these colleges and universities highlights the tenacity and resilience of the Black community through unspeakable hardship. Creating pathways to education, employment, and empowerment where none previously existed, often in the face of active opposition and sabotage, is a running theme in African-American history. HBCU’s have a long, lesser-known history of inclusive practices and diversity, notably welcoming many Jewish academic faculty during the 1940s as they were fleeing Nazi rule in Germany. Today, 1 in 4 students enrolled at an HBCU is non-Black.

The HBCU model is not just about empowering African-American students and faculty by providing spaces focused on their historical and cultural experiences, it is about what we can all learn and gain from Black history and narratives. Understanding American culture, history, art, literature, etc., through a Black lens offers all American students complex ways to understand themselves and their communities and to navigate the world.



Shakira Abney-Wisdom, principal of the newly created STEAM Academy in Montbello, looks forward to opening the first HBCU-model high school in DPS.

Families and students who are interested in enrolling can begin the process by submitting an intent to enroll form. For more information visit: <https://www.dpsk12.org/hbcu-steam-high-school/>

Regan Byrd is an anti-oppression speaker, trainer, activist and consultant, specializing in anti-racism and anti-sexism. www.reganbyrdconsulting.com

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 Neighborhood Music & Theatre, neighborhoodmusicstanley.com, 720-378-3668

Stanley Marketplace, stanleymarketplace.com
 Adjacent to Central Park at 2501 N. Dallas Street, Aurora, 80010

Find more info on these and other camps that get added as plans are finalized. From now through the summer, check FrontPorchNE.com/events/ and filter for “Summer Camp Guide.”

SPRING ONLINE CLASSES

Registration begins 2/16—Spring into Acting. Theatre, movement, improv, and more. DCPA Education offers 50+ online classes for children ages 3 to high schoolers, beginner through advanced. denvercenter.org/education

ADVENTURE/OUTDOOR/NATURE

6/1 to 8/20—Avid4 Adventure Summer Camps. Our experienced instructors empower your campers of all ages and skill levels to bike, hike, rock climb, and paddle in awesome outdoor recreation areas. Day and overnight camp locations across the CO Front Range. Learn more at Avid4.com

6/7 to 8/13—Summer Camp Fun at The Urban Farm. Horseback Riding, Farming & Gardening at The Urban Farm — Half-day & full-day camps for ages 4–16. Get outside and grow amongst the plants and animals! Scholarships available. theurbanfarm.org/summer-camp-tuf. 10200 Smith Rd.

6/7 to 8/20—Bluff Lake Nature Center Summer Camp 2021. Our weekly outdoor camps offer a unique opportunity for kids! Through nature exploration, hands-on science lessons, games, crafts, and unstructured free-play, we inspire campers to better understand and enjoy nature! blufflake.org/camp. 11255 E MLK Jr. Blvd.

6/7 to 8/20—SPREE Summer Camps. Whether we are in the river catching critters, playing games, or doing experiments, everyday is an outdoor learning adventure! We have 10 unique weeks of camp this year at SPREE Headquarters (Johnson Habitat Park, Denver). thegreenwayfoundation.org/summercamp.html



CampGrippen
Indoor
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2021 Camp Guide

ARTS/MUSIC/THEATER/PERFORMANCE

Starts 6/21—Summer Art Camps. Explore, discover, and create during this summer camp opportunity. We will focus on hand building with clay and explore both 2D and 3D art using lots of texture and tools. carolfennell.com. 3213 Galena St.

6/1 to 8/13—Summer Maker Studios at MindCraft Makerspace. Summer Maker Studios are for your kids who love, creating, inventing, engineering, building! Our camps allow kids to stretch their minds and exercise their wildest imagination, using our digital fabrication equipment like 3D printers & more! mindcraft-makerspace.com/summer-learning-adventures. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas Street, Aurora.

6/1 to 8/13—Theatre & Acting Camps. Theatre camps: musicals, plays, and

shows are fully realized productions with costumes, lighting, and sound. High School Musical Jr., Zombies, The Princess Bride, Beetlejuice and more! Ages 7–Teen. Prices vary neighborhoodmusicstanley.com. 10255 E 25th Ave. Aurora.

6/1 to 8/20—Talk to the Camera Video & Moviemaking Camps. Award Winning video and moviemaking camps, theater and acting camps that spark imagination through STEAM-Based, hands-on curriculum, that’s super-fun and engaging! For kids ages 6–16. talktothecamera.com. 2750 Crabapple Road, Golden.

6/7 to 6/18—Music & Hogwarts Summer Camp. Bring the world of wizards and witches to life with our dynamic camp. Enter studies at your local NMS Hogwarts and explore magical abilities. Quidditch, Butter Beer, Crafts, Theater and more! Ages 5–13 Cost: \$350. neighborhoodmusicstanley.com. 10255 E 25th Ave, Aurora.

6/7 to 7/23—CU Denver LYNX National Arts & Media Camps. Ten camp

options for high school students in filmmaking, music industry, animation, illustration, murals, and photography. Camps are one or two weeks long and take place online or on the CU Denver campus. Commuter and residential options. artsandmedia.ucdenver.edu/camps. CU Denver Auraria Campus.

6/7 to 8/13—Factory Fashion Academy Design & Sewing Summer Camps. Students learn fashion/design; historical origins of fashion, design, basic thru advanced sewing skills, and complete a professional fashion show. Camps ages 7–Teen. Prices \$275–350. neighborhoodmusicstanley.com. 10255 E 25th Ave. Aurora.

6/7 to 8/13—Factory Film Academy Summer Camps. Make movies using cameras, editing tools, green screens, and more to explore the world of visual effects and storytelling by learning how to create digital effects on the big screen. Ages 7–Teen. Cost \$300–350. neighborhoodmusicstanley.com. 10255 E 25th Ave. Aurora.

Starts 6/8—Art Camps @ Ceramics in the City. Arts include ceramics, fused glass, painting, and more. Our programs are different every day, so choose the projects and dates that work for you. Space is limited because of social distancing. ceramicsinthecity.com. 5214 East Colfax Ave. 303-200-0461

7/1 to 7/31—Cosplay Summer Camps. Write • Direct • Act • Learn to develop characters and create costumes in cosplay camps. Cosplay Costume Camp (ages 9+) and Umbrella Academy Camp (ages 10+) will get students ready for Comic Con! Prices range. neighborhoodmusicstanley.com. 10255 E 25th Ave. Aurora.

ATHLETICS/SPORTS

6/7 to 6/18—SAS Tennis Camp. Introductory Tennis Camp (4–10 year olds), 9am–12pm at McAuliffe Middle School, Monday through Friday. stapletonallsports.com. McAuliffe Middle School Tennis Courts. 720.985.6642

6/1 to 8/20—CampGrippen Indoor Rock Climbing Camp. Week long indoor rock climbing camps for kids ages 7–13. 6 different camp themes to choose from. Our camps are ALL INCLUSIVE and include lunch and 2 snacks daily, extended day (drop off starts at 8:30am, pickup until 5:00pm). ugclimbing.com/camps. 8610 E. 21st Ave. 720-592-0716

Starts 6/7—Soccer Electric Summer Soccer and a Movie Camp. We’re teaming up again with Denver East High School and other local partners to organize the seventh annual “Summer Soccer and a Movie Camp.” Please visit soccerelectric.com for details and registration info. At Denver East High School. (continued on page 10)

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FEB 16
REGISTRATION
BEGINS



Photos were taken prior to Covid-19. Face masks and distancing are now required for all campers and staff.

REDISCOVER SUMMER FUN

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The Denver-Central Park location is independently owned and operated by a local franchisee.

Find more info on these and other camps that get added as plans are finalized. Now through the summer, check FrontPorchNE.com/events/ and filter for "Summer Camp Guide."

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SUMMER CAMP GUIDE (continued from page 9)

6/7 to 7/30—AYU Ultimate Frisbee Youth Summer Camps. Altitude Youth Ultimate 2021 Summer Camps ages 7-16 throughout Boulder, Colorado Springs, Denver, and Fort Collins. Camps are co-ed and are great for new and experienced players. We offer half-day, full-day/4-day, or 5-day camps. altitudeyouthultimate.org/camps. 7351 E 29th Ave.

6/7 to 8/5—Preschool Summer Adventure Camp. Gymnastics camp for preschool kids, ages 3 to 5½. Two 4-week sessions combining gymnastics with enrichment activities, arts & crafts, games and much more. dardanosgym.com/camp. Dardano's School of Gymnastics, 2250 Kearney Street.

6/7 to 8/13—Bounce Gymnastics Summer Camp! Come join us for a camp filled with fun activities to keep your child engaged all week! Each day students will be participating in a wide variety of gymnastics skills, obstacle courses, and fun games. bouncegymnasticsco.com. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St., Aurora. 720-460-0267

6/17 to 6/25—SAS and CommonGround Golf Camp. Introductory Golf Camp (6-12 year olds), 1pm-3pm at CommonGround Golf Course, Thursdays and Fridays, 6/17, 6/18, 6/24, and 6/25. stapletonall-sports.com. 720.985.6642

7/5 to 7/30—SAS Multi-Sport Camp. Sports Camp (4-11 year olds), 9am-12pm at Central Park (in Central Park), Monday through Friday. Kids play fun games in football, baseball, soccer, dodgeball, and kickball. stapletonallsports.com. 720.985.6642

7/6 to 7/8—SAS and Northfield Nighthawks Basketball Camp. Basketball Camp (3rd to 6th Grade), 1pm-4pm at Northfield High School, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. stapletonallsports.com. 720.985.6642

8/2 to 8/6—SAS Volleyball Camp. Introductory Volleyball Camp (4th-8th grade), 9am-12pm, Monday through Friday. stapletonallsports.com. TBD Indoor court (if possible). 720.985.6642

DAY CAMPS

5/31 to 8/13—Camp Bladium – Summer Camp 2021. During our camps the kids are split into appropriate age groups where they'll play many different sports & games like capture the flag, soccer & basketball as well as breakaway activities like arts & crafts. bladiumdenver.com. 2400 Central Park Blvd.

6/1 to 7/30—Commerce City Summer Camp. Youth Camp Venture: ages 6–10, M–F, 7am–6pm. Adventure Trek: ages 11–15, M–Th, 7am–6pm. Leader in Training: ages 14–15, M–Th, 7am–6pm. State licensed and low child to staff ratios. Just minutes away in Commerce City. Enrollment starts Feb. 17. \$135/week. Space is limited. c3gov.com/camp. 303-289-3659

6/7 to 7/30—Montessori Children's House of Denver. 4 Summer Camp Sessions: Great Colorado Outdoors (6/7–6/18); Space Explorers (6/21–7/2); Under the Sea (7/5–7/16); and Express Yourself:ART! (7/19–7/30). MCHD offers learning centered, theme-based camps at our Central Park, Mayfair & Park Hill campuses for children ages 1-12. Our camps are built around extended outdoor play and hands-on,

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6/7 to 7/30—Summer at Stanley. Summer at Stanley is a child-centered, experiential summer program for students entering grades K-8. We create activities and environments that allow campers to explore, create, discover, and problem solve. stanleybps.org/domain/43. Stanley British Primary School 350 Quebec St. 303-360-0803

6/7 to 8/6—1-3-6-9 Week Private Traditional Day Camp. We encourage personal growth by providing an excellent program facilitated by highly trained staff. Anchored in this safe community, campers will have fun, acquire new skills, and feel valued for who they are and develop a sense of belonging. dreambigdaycamp.com. Denver locations. 303-377-1805



Dream BIG
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ers. Please join us for weekly Front Range excursions with a max of 8 children per van hitting Denver's great outdoors and natural sites. Hiking, mountain top yoga, sun salutations, science based learning, games, exploring, ice cream, and more. dreambigdaycamp.com/denver-tripping-camps-2nd-5th. Denver & Greenwood Village locations. 303-377-1805

6/7 to 8/6—Summer at Ricks. Summer at Ricks blends fun summer activities with rich learning experiences all while enjoying the benefits of the University of Denver campus. du.edu/ricks. 2040 South York St.

6/14 to 7/30—Galileo Camps Colorado. An incredible innovation based summer camp with creative week long themes including Toy Makers Workshop, National Parks Adventure & Olympic Games! Join us for a joyful and safe camp experience this summer here in the neighborhood. galileo-camps.com/our-camps/summer-camp-galileo. Central Park/Park Hill location - finalized soon!

Primrose Central Park Summer Adventure Club. Ages 4-12. Different weekly themes to choose from. Meals and activity fees included in price. Register at <https://www.primroseschools.com/schools/denver-central-park>. 303-322-7200

MISC

6/7 to 7/16—Super Stars Summer Camp. Engaging and fun 5-week Orton-Gillingham intervention program intensive, high-quality reading instruction along with math and writing instruction to grow skills and self-confidence. Half-day and full-day options at 2 locations, Denver and Littleton/Lakewood. Virtual classes too. EveryChildReading.org

6/14 to 7/16—Academic Booster Camp for Dyslexia. eXL Learning @ Stanley Marketplace AM group 8:30am-12:00pm, PM group 12:30pm-4:00pm. Academic Booster Camp is for students who struggle with dyslexia. This camp helps kids gain academic skills with support from daily 1:1 tutoring. Kids love it! exllearning.com/summer-camps/#dyslexia_camp. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas Street, Aurora. 303-364-9581

OVERNIGHT

6/6 to 8/14—Camp Timberline. Camp Timberline is a Christian Sports and Mountain Adventure camp located in Estes Park, Colorado and along the Front Range. We offer several different camps for kids aged 5-18. Join us this summer for a camp experience unlike any other! camptimberline.com. 1207 Longs Peak Rd, Estes Park. 970-484-8462

6/6 to 8/12—Camp Chief Ouray. Nestled in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, Camp Chief Ouray is the premier overnight camp and adventurous playground. With over 5,000 acres of mountains, valleys, streams, and meadows to explore, boredom is simply not an option. campchiefouray.org. 1101 County Road 53 Granby. 970-887-2648

STEM

6/7 to 7/8—Chess Camp. 27th Annual Denver Rocky Mountain Chess Camps held on June 7-11 and July 6-8. Participants will be taught scorekeeping, etiquette, tournament preparation, logical-thinking and strategic planning. Learn from National Chess Master Todd Bardwick. coloradomasterchess.com. 1 Red Fox Lane, Englewood.

6/14 to 7/9—Curious Jane Summer Camp. Curious Jane is a girls Summer Camp for ages 5-11 that revolves around science + engineering + design. Themes we offer include Game Time, Magic & Mystery, Stop Motion, Space Craft, Toy Design, Spy Science and more. curiousjane.fun. 55 Clermont Street.

2021 SUMMER CAMPS

@ BLUFF LAKE NATURE CENTER

Camp Themes and Ages

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Outdoor Survival	(Ages 5-12)
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June 1-July 30

Youth Camp Venture: Ages 6-10
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Adventure Trek: Ages 11-15
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Mon-Thu • 7 a.m.-6 p.m. **NEW!**

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NEW EXPERIENCES • LIFELONG MEMORIES • EXCITEMENT • CREATIVITY •

FRIENDSHIP • LEADERSHIP • TEAM BUILDING • PLAY •



A new film from a first-time director and a wonderful film collection from the Sie Film Center give you plenty of great options this month. Start a different kind of binge and support local cinema.

Land (2021)

This directorial debut from Robin Wright is a film that couldn't have been released at a better time. It tells the story of Edee (Wright), a woman who has experienced a trauma and moves to a cabin in Wyoming to get away from civilization and live off the grid by herself. She is ill-prepared, however, and she falls apart during the harsh winter, finally helped by a local hunter (Demián Bachir). He and a nurse care for her and bring her back from the brink of death. He then proceeds to teach her how to live in the wild—hunting, fishing, and growing food.

This is a quiet film, one where shots of the landscapes outnumber the amount of dialogue. Filmed in Alberta, Canada, the landscapes are by turns beautiful and tranquil as well as unforgiving and deadly. Cin-

ematographer Bobby Bukowski is able to capture both states with precision and grandeur—finding just the right mix of the beautiful, the precarious, and the sublime.

In one scene, as she cleans out her shed, a Grizzly pays a visit and ransacks her house, eating all of her meager provisions as well as highlighting the dangers of her environment. She suddenly realizes how everything can turn very quickly in her new world. It is for this reason why the film is perfect for the now: we all, at one point

or another, have fantasized about ditching the world of traffic and cellphones for the quiet and tranquility of the mountains. Yet it all comes at a cost. If we have learned one thing over the last year, it is that we need, even *crave*, human connection. That connection may be the essential characteristic of humanity—a fact that Edee learns just in time. How she got there in the first place is finally addressed near the end of the film, and where life will lead her is left open. What is not left open, however, is that desire to be human.

Starts February 1st on demand.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Wild*, *All is Lost*, and *Into the Wild*.



A tribute to Kar-Wai Wong

The Denver Film Society/Sie Film Center has a visual treat for everyone this month: a tribute to the great Hong Kong director Wong Kar-Wai. Wong is one of the world's great directors, an artisan who is also cinephile's



In the Mood for Love
—Wong Kar-wai

dream. The Center will be showing most of his films this month, including *As Tears Go By*, *Fallen Angels*, *Happy Together*, *In the Mood for Love*, *The Hand*, *Chungking Express*, and *Days of Being Wild*. On 2/18 they add *2046* and *Ashes of Times Redux*.

Sight and Sound magazine called him *the* innovator of the nineties and said he “broke new ground and changed the medium irrevocably.” He has an exquisite eye and an intimate relationship with the city he calls home. His most recognizable film of the bunch may be *In the Mood for Love* (2000), which tells the story of a man (Tony Leung) and woman (Maggie Cheung) who develop a close relationship after they find out their own spouses are having an affair with each other. It is a lush and sensuous film, with gorgeous cinematography, expressive editing, and a wonderful soundtrack. If you only get to see one film, make it this one. But instead of bingeing a new online series this month, binge one of the great directors of a generation.

Playing at the Sie Film Center's virtual cinema, www.denverfilm.org.

Vincent Piturro, PhD, is a Professor of Film and Media Studies at Metropolitan State University of Denver. He can be reached at vpiturro@msudenver.edu. And you can follow “Indie Prof” on Facebook and @VincentPiturro on Twitter.



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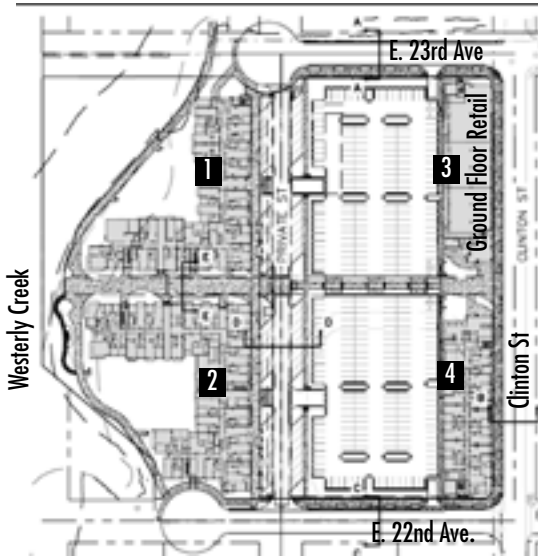
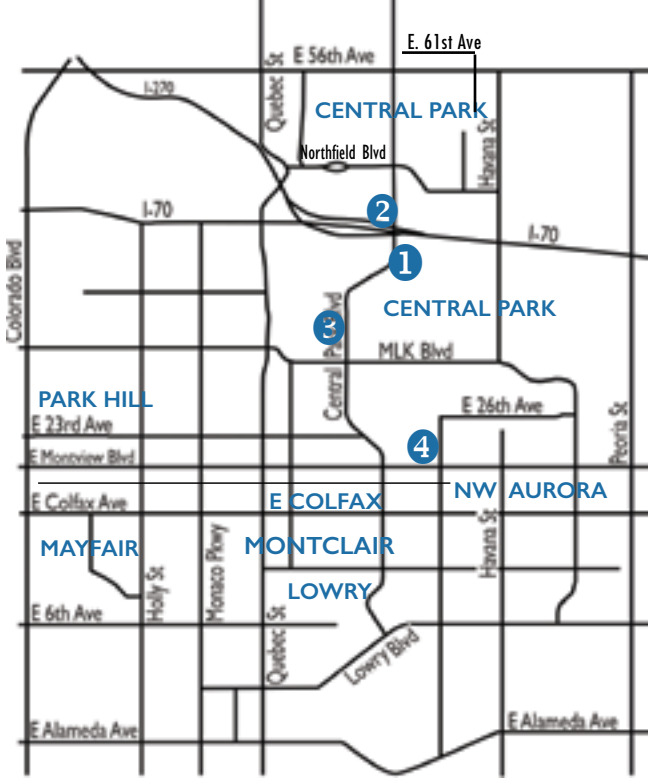


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...NE News Updates

Stanley Marketplace



Work is starting on a new four-building apartment complex at 2201 Clinton St. in Aurora that will have 338 units.



Ground floor retail is planned in Building 3, which faces Clinton St. at 23rd Ave. in the new apartment complex at 2201 Clinton St.

By Carol Roberts

1 New Retail Development at 40th & CPB



Tyler Carlson announced at a Central Park Zoning and Planning Meeting on Jan. 12 that Evergreen Development has closed on the lot at 40th and Central Park Blvd., named Runway 35 South. Given its location next to I-70, it is being developed as highway-friendly retail with

six lots designated as restaurant or drive-thru (with interest from coffee, desserts and lunchtime places), one lot for a bank or credit union, a car wash, Brandt Hospitality Group, and a Quik Trip gas station/store/small restaurant with prepared foods. QuikTrip plans to build their headquarters in the lot

2 Retail Also Coming to E. 46th Pl. and CPB

Evergreen Development also announced their Runway 35 North development. Plans call for three national brand drive-thrus to be located along CPB, two sit-down restaurants (one a breakfast group), a church already in Central Park that will have shared parking with a daycare next to it, a financial institution, a medical clinic, a potential hotel, and a 30,000 sq. ft. “high profile” retail anchor.

A light will be installed at CPB and E. 46th Pl., and the E. 46th Pl. median will be modified to allow turns into the development. The site plan is posted at FrontPorchNE.com

3 Natural Grocers Coming to MLK & CPB

The lot just east of the Control Tower (formerly Punch-bowl) will have a to-be-determined building right at the MLK/CPB intersection. Natural Grocers will be on the north end of that lot, along 32nd Ave. It will include a “high-end, vertical, hydroponic, computer-managed structure” for growing fresh lettuce and greens that will be sold in the store. Evergreen Development, which developed the Eastbridge Town Center and the Shops at Beeler Park, will do the construction for Natural Grocers and they hope to start this spring. There will be no access from Central Park Blvd.

4 338 Apartments Starting Construction in Aurora

The 9.27 acre site at 2201 Clinton will have 338 dwelling units in four buildings arranged around an interior private parking area. Trammell Crow Residential is the builder.

Pandemic Impact on Mega-Projects

(continued from page 5) the concourse renewal is \$560 million, and the Great Hall is \$770 million.

Some unique features: 1) Concourses A & B west, with all new gates going to United, will have a new outdoor deck with views of the mountains, a pet relief area, outdoor seating and fire pits. 2) Concourse C east, with all gates leased to Southwest, will have an outdoor deck with the same amenities and a view of the prairie.

How did the pandemic affect the projects?

More than 1,000 people a day worked on DEN’s projects. With strict safety measures, they had no work stoppages due to Covid-19. The gate extension work was not impacted by the pandemic since it was an areas with no passengers. With TSA work in the Great Hall could be done during the day, rather than at night, with the lower passenger numbers, and was finished ahead of schedule.

Being a good outdoor destination, DEN had 12 to 15 percent more passengers than the average for U.S. airports—and it has many domestic flights, which were less impacted than international flights. Though 2020 passengers were 60% of 2019’s level, DEN had a 500-day cash-on-hand cushion to weather it. DEN offered relief packages to stakeholders in 2020 and in 2021, which eliminated the minimum guarantees in contracts and deferred lease payments.

DEN project information provided by Alex Renteria, Emily Williams and Shellee Casillo.

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When a grant for the 275-foot mural along the Sand Creek trail was withdrawn due to the pandemic, the non-profit Sand Creek Greenway Partnership raised funds to make it happen.

- By fall cyclists will be able to enjoy a 12-foot wide concrete trail that connects the 14-mile long Sand Creek Greenway to the High Line Canal trail in Aurora and to the South Platte River trail in Commerce City.
- A massive stretch of concrete that used to support a runway over I-70 now celebrates wildlife along Sand Creek Greenway with a 275-foot mural whimsically depicting the species that have made a home there since the airport moved: foxes, beavers, bald eagles, deer — even an elk that has appeared in the eastern portion of the Greenway.
- A mountain of trash and debris that littered the steep bank of Sand Creek just west of Havana has been cleaned up, creating a peaceful and natural stretch of the stream where mallards “dabble” with their green heads down and their bottoms up as they graze on underwater plants.

By Mary Jo Brooks

Sand Creek Greenway is being transformed from a creek that used to hide under airport infrastructure to a gem of nature and recreation in the city.

An upgraded trail for cyclists—Paving of the trail on the north side of Sand Creek will begin in late February and is expected to be completed by fall. The concrete trail will be 12-feet wide, with a 4-foot crusher fine path at its edge. The Sand Creek trail project includes adding a paved parking lot and a formalized trailhead near the confluence of Sand Creek and Westerly Creek. “Our hope is that in the future we can get some additional funding to build restrooms there as well,” says Denver Parks and Recreation’s Cincere Eades. The \$3.5 million dollar project was funded by 2018 bond tax initiative

approved by Denver voters to expand and improve parks and open spaces in the city.

Art and nature—The 275-foot mural is just west of the parking area at the confluence of the two creeks. It was funded by the non-profit Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership. Executive director Beth Nobles said originally 50% of the mural’s \$23,000 installation and maintenance costs were to be funded by Denver Arts and Venues, but because of the pandemic, the grant was withdrawn. “Our board decided that in times like these, the community can be elevated and energized by doing something good. Art... can build community. The board said to go ahead and raise the money—and we did,” said Nobles.

Created by Lakewood artist Yulia Avgustinovich, Nobles says she loves how the



With heavier use of trails and open space during the pandemic, Denver Parks and Rec determined that the mountain of debris from the old Stapleton airport was a safety hazard and committed \$500,000 to clean up steep bank just west of Havana.

painting incorporates wildlife while allowing the gritty industrial wall to show through. “It really encapsulates our notion of wildlife in the city. People love this mural. They have cheered us for getting this project started and I think there will be a lot of support for future projects to really make this an arts destination,” says Nobles.

A safer and more natural habitat—The pandemic, surprisingly, was an incentive to get the cleanup done. “With the increased use of the trails during the pandemic, we felt we needed to remove those materials (concrete, metal and other debris) for safety reasons,” says Eades. Much of the debris came from the airport runways that covered

Sand Creek and Westerly Creek. In addition to removing debris from the banks and waters of Sand Creek, the \$500,000 project by Denver Parks and Recreation and the Mile High Flood District will stabilize the creek banks and restore some of the topography that was damaged from unauthorized BMX bike trails that had been created in the area. “That kind of bike use destroys the vegetation and leads to erosion, so we are always trying to educate the public and do outreach about why it’s so important to stay on designated trails,” said Morgan Lynch with the Mile High Flood District.



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Gerardo Muñoz, named Colorado’s 2021 Teacher of the Year, teaches social studies at Denver International School at Baker.

By Mary Jo Brooks

Social studies teacher Gerardo Muñoz says he first heard about the attack on the U.S. Capitol when one of his students texted “what’s happening?” After first mistaking that for a casual greeting, he quickly pulled up CNN on his computer and, when his next class began, shared the screen with his students so they could watch the events unfold together and then write down their thoughts and feelings. “I emphasized the importance of bearing witness,” says Muñoz, a Central Park resident who teaches at Denver Center for International Studies at Baker. “I’ve been insisting that students write about their experiences over the past 10 months with the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter uprisings. I actually had one student who said half-jokingly to me: ‘I’m tired of living in history.’”

The Capitol siege, followed by impeachment, and inauguration of a new president have provided social studies teachers and their students with plenty of history-in-the-making moments to observe, question, and assess. East High School’s Matthew Fulford says it can be tricky—especially when some students may feel that the rhetoric they hear is an attack on their identity. But Fulford, who teaches history and constitutional law, says it’s critical to have those discussions. “Every social studies teacher has the responsibility—especially right now—to teach civic engagement and help students process what’s going on around them. People think of civics as a list of things you need to memorize, but for me ‘civics’ is a verb. It’s about getting engaged with your community.”

Democracy

Something We’re Working Toward and Aspiring to

Fulford and Muñoz believe that the deep partisan divide, the violence, and the distrust in government is partly due to a lack of education about how government works. “What we’re seeing in our country right now is the result of a deficit of prioritizing history and social studies in general. Our inability to place things in context, to understand different points of view,” says Muñoz.

“Studying history makes you a better citizen,” says Fulford. “It helps you filter information and make decisions about sources. It makes you a better thinker and that helps with citizenship.”

Muñoz directly blames the policy of “No Child Left Behind” that placed a greater emphasis on standardized testing for math and reading. “If it’s not tested, if it’s not a hard skill, then it’s not a priority, it’s not funded and it’s not supported. If the last four years haven’t taught us how badly we need to teach history and civics, I don’t know what will,” says Muñoz.

Both teachers also agree about the importance of helping students get outside their own bubble so they can encounter other points of view. Fulford pointed to a program started by an East High School sociology teacher

where students do an exchange with Columbine High School. Students spend a day at each other’s schools and then spend time reflecting on it. “They examine their biases about each other: the inner-city school and the suburban school,” says Fulford. “It’s a powerful experience. The schools are just 10 miles apart but it’s very much a cultural exchange.”

“Across this divide, we have to find ways to be around other people—and not in the toxic way that manifests itself on social media,” says Muñoz. He adds that students—and frankly all Americans—need to have authentic conversations and interactions with people who have different beliefs, experiences, and backgrounds.

Across this divide, we have to find ways to be around other people—and not in the toxic way that manifests itself on social media.

—Gerardo Muñoz



Photo from a 2018 Front Porch story

Matthew Fulford teaches history and constitutional law at East High School. He coaches East’s constitutional law team that competes and has won state and national competitions.

“We need to ask ‘what has been your lived experience?’” Fulford says he has shown his classes a documentary about a program in Israel that brings Jews and Arabs together to try to bridge the divide between the two groups. “You stop making grand generalizations about other people when there’s a real person in front of you. I don’t think we’re as fractured as Jews and Arabs in Israel. But we’re pretty fractured.”

Both Fulford and Muñoz took sharp issue with the 1776 Project report that was issued by the Trump administration in January. The report rejected the idea that slavery was central to America’s founding and attacked “identity politics” as an attack on America.

“Not one of the members on that commission was a historian, yet they claim we’re sowing disunity by not teaching ‘true history.’ Or they call us revisionist historians. Those are terms you only use if you don’t understand the exceptional complexity of history,” says Fulford. “The job of a historian is not about telling comfortable myths. It’s about coming to terms with who you are and the history of now.”

“The U.S. Constitution is an optimistic document—despite who wrote it,” says Muñoz. “I’ve always framed democracy not as a structure you employ but as an aspiration. There have been

patently undemocratic moments in history, but they don’t cancel the idea of democracy. They show that it’s something we’re working toward and aspiring to.”

People think of civics as a list of things you need to memorize, but for me civics is a verb. It’s about getting engaged with your community.

—Matthew Fulford

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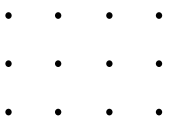
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