

Front Porch

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DENVER, COLORADO

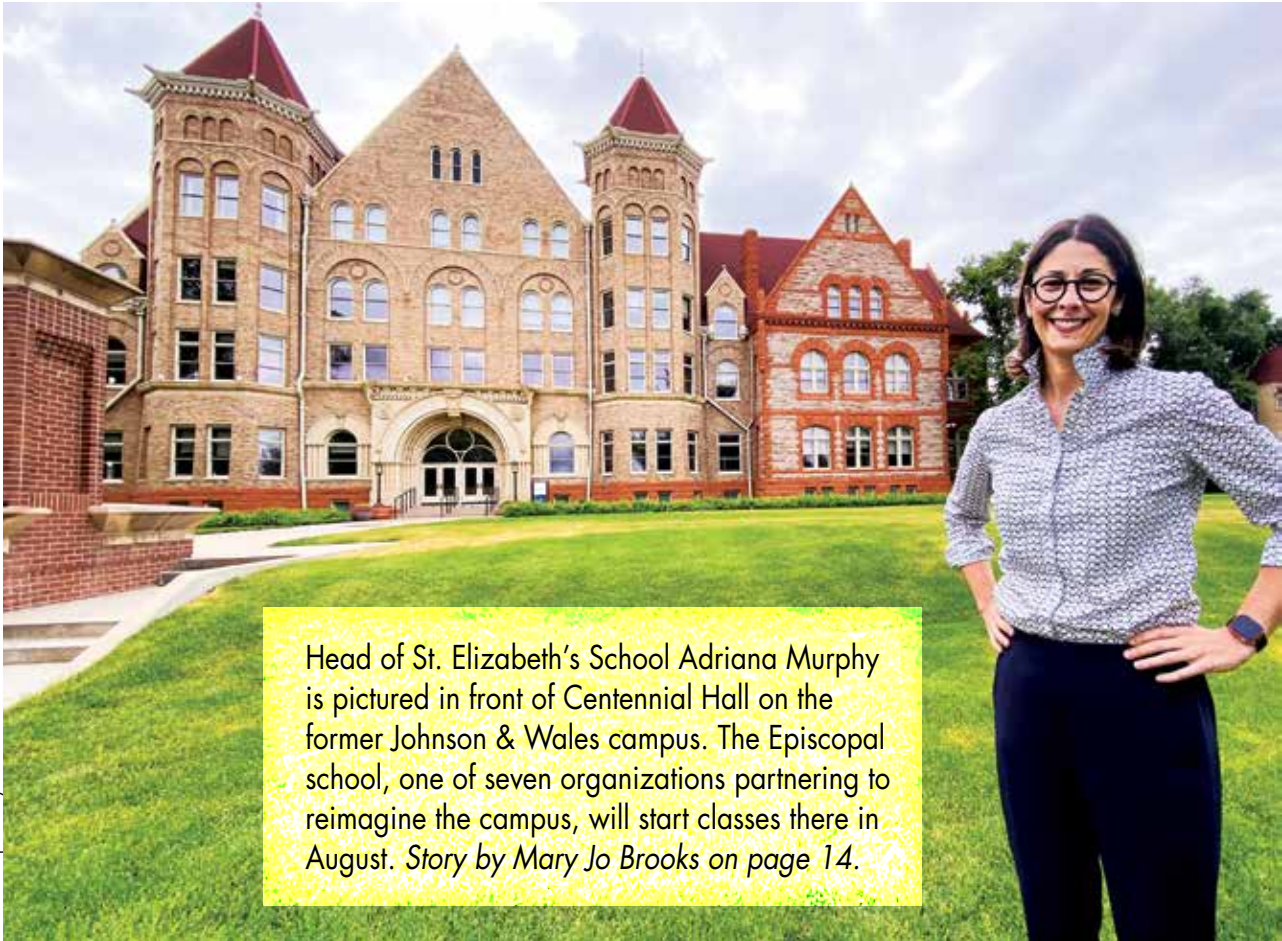
NORTHEAST DENVER

JULY 2021



At Denver’s Juneteenth celebration in Five Points on June 19 & 20, adults hugged old friends after a long year apart, patronized Black-owned businesses, and danced to live gospel and other music as children enjoyed activities offered by vendors. Above, Josiah McQuery, 11, tosses a bean bag in a cornhole game as his cousin Lavell McQuery, 4, watches intently. Josiah’s mom, Tashyla Jackson, says, “Juneteenth to me means celebrating being Black, it means family, it means happiness, it means prosperity.” *Story on page 6.*

New Life for Johnson & Wales Campus



Head of St. Elizabeth’s School Adriana Murphy is pictured in front of Centennial Hall on the former Johnson & Wales campus. The Episcopal school, one of seven organizations partnering to reimagine the campus, will start classes there in August. *Story by Mary Jo Brooks on page 14.*



2021 Legislative Session: Here’s What Happened

This session saw significant legislation in a long list of areas including transportation, health care, firearms safety, consumer protection, criminal justice, early childhood education, elections, environmental protection, social equity and economic security. *Todd Engdahl offers an overview on page 4.*



The great blue heron weighs 5 lbs and has a wingspan of 6 feet



The yellow warbler weighs 0.36 oz and has a wingspan of 7 inches

BIRD SIGHTINGS—These photos of the great blue heron, a ubiquitous large shorebird that hangs around shallow water hunting for fish, and the yellow warbler, a common song bird with bright color and a beautiful melody, were photographed recently at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge around Lake Ladora. They are also commonly seen in Central Park and along Sand Creek. *Photos and information by bird watcher George Ho.*

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Events & Announcements

Staying Cool at the MCA Pools

With temperatures already breaking a whopping 100 degrees multiple times this season, the MCA's seven community pools have become a desired destination for families striving to stay cool in the summer heat. The city's decreased restrictions on public gatherings and increased vaccination rates have also played a significant role in getting the pools operating back to full capacity. And one thing is for sure, the demand to get in the water is greater than ever!

Zia Meyers, Aviator Pool manager, and Nolan Younoszai, F-15 Pool manager, have both noticed their patrons exhibiting a newfound excitement now that the pools have returned to a state of normalcy. For Younoszai, who managed the F-15 pool through 2020 in the height of the pandemic, the relaxed atmosphere encompassing this season is a welcome change.

"People are able to stay at the pool later, order food, and meet their friends," stated Younoszai. "It has slowly started to feel like we are getting back to a regular season at the pool."

Getting back to a more regular season has also brought the return of regular faces and the opportunity to establish rapport again between our staff and patrons. This is undoubtedly true for Meyers, who is in her first season as manager of Aviator Pool.

"The most positive part [of managing] is always seeing regulars and being able to establish relationships with all of the kids we see daily," said Meyers. "The children seem more enthusiastic...and everyone seems to enjoy the pool atmosphere even more."

The MCA offers alternative morning reservation options at various facilities for residents not quite ready to dive back in at full capacity. Racheal Vincent-Newell, MCA's Aquatics Specialist, has seen the benefit these alternatives have provided community members.

"We are so glad to be able to offer open swim for those who want a full capacity experience and AM

Reservations for those who wish to visit the pools while still maintaining distance. Being able to meet the needs of both user groups is a great feeling," said Vincent-Newell. All in all, most Central Park residents are just excited to have the opportunity to return to the family-friendly pastime many missed out on in 2020. "The excitement is infectious, affirmed Vincent-Newell, "I see it spreading to our staff and visitors daily at both reserved and open swims."

2021 has included a few additional changes with the MCA retiring the former Stapleton Resident Memberships and launching the new Resident Active Pass and MY MCA app. MCA's admin and aquatic teams have been working tirelessly to launch the new membership system and application, which offer residents some new features for easy access to the pools.

"For those residents, like myself, who always have their phone but often forget where they put their membership cards [the MY MCA app] is great," Vincent-Newell exclaimed! Though the first edition of the MY MCA app isn't without its flaws, the benefits strongly outweigh the problems. Benefits such as Vincent-Newell's favorite feature, the scheduling option for morning and Holiday reservations. "It makes reserving pool time a breeze," she said. Residents will see additional updates to the new system in the months ahead to further better the user experience. "As we work with Active Net to continue to update the Active Pass program, I believe it will only get better and better," said Vincent Newell.

And for now, F-15 manager, Younoszai, summed it up well, "While the current system has taken some adjusting to, most people appear happy just to be back in the water."

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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.

Artificial Intelligence in Science Fiction

(and, soon enough, in your home)

By Martina Will, Ph.D.

“Can they become like us? Can an Artificial Intelligence [AI] learn to love?” These are the kinds of questions that interest John M. Campbell, Central Park resident and science fiction author. His soon-to-be-published short story, “The Tiger and the Waif,” explores this possibility as it juxtaposes the most basic and low-tech of items—a child’s stuffed animal—with its AI “brain” that becomes self-aware.

Campbell doesn’t think this possibility is too far off. He imagines that in twenty years, manufacturers will be able to program toys with AI, for example, that might “reward” the AI for doing something that brings joy to a child. As the AI continues to seek these rewards, he wonders “at some point, is that any different from an aspect of love?”

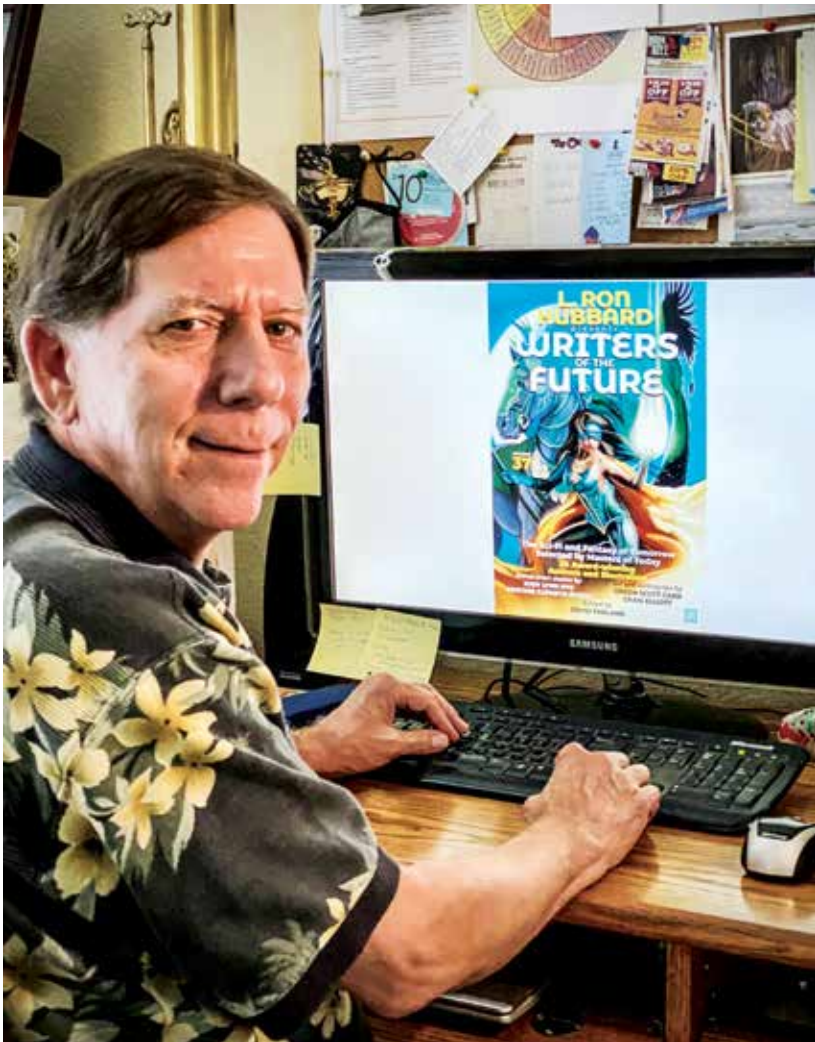
His story’s inspiration came from the hand-held “pets” his children used to play with, but Campbell has long been fascinated by AI. He began reading science fiction at age 11 or 12, gravitating towards the stories of Ray Bradbury and Isaac Asimov. One of his favorite titles still comes readily to mind: Robert Heinlein’s *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*. Set amid a human colony living on the moon, Heinlein’s tale includes an AI that acquires consciousness and helps humans to become independent from the Earth. “I think we’re coming closer and closer to that becoming a reality,” Campbell says. “Eventually, AIs will become smarter and smarter...I don’t know if I will live to see it, but my children might.”

Campbell is an avid reader of both science fiction and science. Though some science fiction tends to be apocalyptic in nature, his preferred style of science fiction tends to be optimistic about humanity and the future. A child of the 1960s, he reflects on the way TV shows like *Star Trek* envisioned a future world where races and peoples across the galaxy interacted in positive ways, learning from each other. Even when he considers some of the most pressing contemporary social and scientific concerns, he reflects this same optimism in humanity and in science. “As a scientist, we currently face the big question of global warming and whether we will survive and what is the world going to be like in 50 years...and I’m still optimistic that science

will find ways to reverse this problem. Technologies will be invented because they need to be invented... and we will find biological ways to absorb more carbon dioxide.”

An aerospace engineer for over three decades, Campbell worked on a host of computer systems for the Department of Defense and a number of “three-letter” intelligence services; that work included operating “a global communication system that supplied intelligence reports to the U.S. Navy.” Some of his work had a strong element of science fiction, including software to control the onboard systems for stealth bombers. A lot of creativity was involved in this work, as he and his team overcame aerospace challenges to meet a particular goal “to improve intelligence or fighting capabilities.” Solutions he helped develop are common now on commercial aircraft, he says.

His creativity took a different shape upon retirement in 2015, when Campbell decided to pursue science fiction writing. He credits the Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers and a critique group he meets with monthly for helping him to hone his craft as an author. The workshop group in particular, he says, helps build confidence as he works through ideas. The com-



Local author John M. Campbell sits at the desk where he writes every morning and displays the cover of the anthology that will soon publish his latest short story.
Front Porch photo by Steve Larson

radery and support helped as he fielded rejection letters, an experience all writers share regardless of genre. “Even when this story [“The Tiger and the Waif”] was getting rejected, I thought it might not fit a particular anthology...but I really believed in it.” So he kept trying to find the right publication, and recently received an award and a publication home. Along with the prize, Campbell will travel to Los Angeles for a week-long series of events to celebrate the story’s publication in the November 2021 *Writers of the Future* anthology.

“I’m a big believer that you strive and you learn more from your failures than your wins,” says Campbell, who is already working on his next project. He doesn’t offer many specifics but reveals that it’s based on string theory, which posits that there are extra dimensions beyond the familiar three (height, width, length) and Einstein’s spacetime. Campbell wants to explore what might happen if people could learn to open a hidden dimension and use it for clandestine activities.

It seems little is outside the realm of possibility for Campbell, which seems fitting given his genre. To follow Campbell or learn more about his upcoming publication—which will be available for purchase on Amazon—visit his website at <https://www.johnmcampbell.com/>



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Legislature Advances Broad Progressive Agenda

The 2021 legislative session saw majority Democrats push through significant legislation on transportation funding, health care and firearms safety, plus consumer protection, criminal justice, early childhood care and education, elections, environmental protection, social equity and economic security.

Budget issues also were important this session. A rebound in state revenues and massive amounts of federal pandemic aid allowed for unprecedented spending, but most of it is one-time. *(The June issue of Front Porch included a report on budget issues.)*

The pandemic had limited the Democrats' ability to push a broad policy agenda in 2020. In 2021 they felt able to push ahead. There were many compromises and a few losses along the way, but overall much was accomplished. Here are some of the highlights.

Transportation funding was billed as the breakthrough issue of the session, promising to end years of tinkering and stopgap funding.

The solution was SB 260, a complicated package of fees and TABOR-exempt state enterprises designed to raise more than \$5 billion over a decade to fund not just highway improvements but also electric vehicles, mass transit and encourage reduction of greenhouse gases.

Lawmakers also created a Front Range rail district (SB 028), tasked with promoting passenger rail service from Fort Collins to Pueblo, and passed HB 1186, which gives the financially troubled Regional Transportation District more flexibility in its operations.



2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: Here's What Happened

But the 2021 session did substantive work on much more than transportation.

Consumer Protection and Economic Fairness

Lawmakers passed about a dozen bills in this area, including restrictions on insurance company use of external consumer data that could be discriminatory (SB 169), increased regulation of mortgage servicers (HB 1282), and a bill to give consumers greater control over their personal data online (SB 190).

Some consumer bills touched on more mundane concerns. Those included limitations on pet store sales of dogs and cats (HB 1102), requiring certain businesses to accept cash (HB 1048), continue allowing liquor takeout and delivery (HB 1027), and limiting the ability of

homeowners' associations to censor residents' flying of flags (HB 1310).

Education

The big news in education policy this session was passage of HB 1304, which will create a brand-new state agency, the Department of Early Childhood. Among other functions the new agency will oversee the universal preschool program that will launch in a couple of years, funded by the nicotine taxes approved by voters last November.

The two most notable pieces of higher education legislation fit in with the Democrats' push for equity. National tests like the ACT no longer will be required for admission at state institutions (HB 1067), and legacy admissions are banned by HB 1173.

Elections

Democrats got a slate of election measures through, including a general overhaul of election law and tightening of recall requirements (SB 250), a measure to move toward ranked choice/instant runoff voting in non-partisan elections (HB 1071) and a revision in ballot language for initiatives (HB 1321), among others.

Environment

Environmental protection and action on climate change were big priorities for Democrats this session.

The biggest environmental bill of the session came together very late after Gov. Jared Polis and legislative Democrats patched up differences over proposed limitations on greenhouse gas emissions and the powers of the state air quality commission originally contained in SB 200.

In the session's closing hours a softened version of those provisions was amended in HB 21-1266, a measure originally intended to provide better monitoring of pollution in disadvantaged communities.

On the consumer front, HB 1162 will phase out single-use plastic bags and certain food containers.

Health and Insurance

The so-called public option or state option health insurance plan drew a lot of attention before the session started.

The original proposal (HB 1232) was for a state-run insurance program that would reduce premiums for some people on the individual market, particularly in some Western Slope counties. Ferocious opposition by the hospital and insurance industries created headwinds for the bill. It got amended down to a state-regulated but privately run insurance plan that insurers would have to offer.

The other big "health" related fight of the session was over HB 1317, which will regulate the potency of concentrated THC in various marijuana products.

Other health-related bills that passed included a requirement that insurance companies cover annual mental health evaluations, (HB 1068), expanded insurance coverage of alternative pain treatments (HB 1276), establishment of a state board to review affordability of prescription drugs (SB 175), and additional state controls on the price of insulin (HB 1307).

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Housing

Colorado’s out-of-control housing market and rising housing costs prompted several bills, most of which are intended to protect renters. Those include new rules for reporting tenants’ rent payment history to credit agencies (HB 1134), greater protections for renters on late fees and evictions (SB 173), and expanded local government authority to require affordable housing (HB 1117). A number of the pandemic stimulus bills also include funding for affordable housing programs.

Justice and Law Enforcement

Firearms safety bills drew lots of attention and some hot rhetoric. Bills passed included safe storage requirements (HB 1106), expanded background checks (HB 1298), background checks when guns are transferred (HB 1082), mandatory reporting of lost or stolen firearms (SB 78), flexibility for governments to regulate firearms (SB 256), creation of a state office of gun violence prevention (HB 1299) and reporting of firearms owned by people under protection orders (HB 1255).

Prompted by the 2019 death of Elijah McClain at the hands of Aurora police, HB 1251 puts some limits on police and paramedic use of the tranquilizer ketamine on arrestees.

Two bills on sexual abuse liability sparked emotional debate. With passage of SB 088, victims who suffered sexual abuse as minors will have expanded ability to sue perpetrators and the organizations that employed them. And SB 073 extends the statute of limitation for lawsuits against perpetrators.

Social Equity and Economic Security

It took lots of debate, but lawmakers finally passed SB 087, which gives farm workers many of the state labor law protections they previously didn’t have. But another labor measure concerning workplace harassment and unfair labor practices, SB 176, died in committee the night before adjournment.

Other equity bills passed this session included extension of anti-discrimination law to gender expression (HB 1108), strengthening of anti-discrimination laws related to people with disabilities (HB 1110), creation of a program to encourage outdoor recreation by disadvantaged youth (SB 1318), a bill to fund food bank-type centers to distribute diapers and related supplies (SB 27) and, finally, the bill to ban most American Indian school mascots (SB 116).

Todd Engdahl owns Capitol Editorial Services, a firm that provides legislative coverage, intelligence, and analysis to private clients. During a long career as an editor and public policy journalist, he served as executive city editor of The Denver Post, founder of DenverPost.com and a founder of Education News Colorado, which later became part of Chalkbeat Colorado.

Area Legislators

Northeast Denver’s five legislators, all Democrats, were in the thick of things this session.



Freshman **Rep. Jennifer Bacon** (House District 7) was listed as a prime sponsor on a dozen bills. Among those were creation of a state office of gun violence prevention (HB 1299) and a measure to improve outcomes for newly released convicts (SB 146). But two bills that Bacon participated in didn’t make it. One was a measure on reform of pre-trial legal procedures (SB 273) and the second would have given school boards a stronger position in charter school appeals to the state (HB 1295). Bacon also serves on the Denver school board.



Sen. James Coleman (Senate District 33) was new to the Senate this year after two terms in the House. He was a prime sponsor on six bills, including education and criminal justice measures and HB 1288, a pandemic relief bill that sets up a \$30 million revolving loan fund for startup businesses.



As a now-veteran member of the Joint Budget Committee, **Sen. Chris Hansen** (Senate District 31) was a key player in budgetary, pandemic stimulus, and other financial issues. Hansen was a prime sponsor of the bill to regulate the strength of marijuana concentrates (HB 1317) and a measure that makes important changes in the property tax system (SB293), plus measures tweaking state income taxes, gun control, and some environmental bills. He was listed as a prime sponsor on 43 bills, but that number is inflated because JBC members as a group can introduce an unlimited number of bills.



Rep. Leslie Herod (House District 8) was busy as a new member of JBC this session but also retained her interests in equity, criminal justice, and other issues. She sponsored bills to limit fines and fees on juveniles in the justice system (HB 1315), pandemic stimulus relief for creative industries (HB 1276), and an update to the 2020 police accountability law (HB 1250). But she and cosponsors had to withdraw a bill to reform school discipline and policing practices (SB 182). She was a prime sponsor on 38 bills.



Rep. Steven Woodrow (House District 60) is serving his first full term and was a prime sponsor on 11 bills. Those included reform of pre-trial detention (HB 1280), the “right to repair” bill requiring tech manufacturers to provide repair information to independent service shops (HB 1199), some pandemic relief measures, and one of the gun-control bills.

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Four months before Juneteenth was declared a national holiday, Denver City Council, on Feb. 22, 2021, unanimously voted to make it an official commemorative holiday in Denver, to be celebrated on the Saturday closest to June 19. But Juneteenth celebrations in Denver can be traced all the way back to 1953 when businessman Otha Rice, who had a bar in Five Points, started the Juneteenth tradition in Denver.

Abraham Lincoln officially ended slavery with the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1, 1863, but enslaved people in Texas only learned about it on June 19, 1865 when Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas and announced, "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor." (Texas State Library)



Interviews by Carol Roberts, Photos by Steve Larson



Khysin Adoshe—We are out here celebrating the holiday of Juneteenth, which is now a federal national holiday. This was the freedom from slavery, actually, so we appreciate it. Before we came today, we told our kids the importance of celebrating Juneteenth and why history should never repeat itself. We should know what history is so we can further our future. My mother didn't really tell me about Juneteenth, I had to do the research myself. And from that, I am now teaching my children.



Ty James and Nicole Henley with Desiree, 14 months
Ty: For Juneteenth, we're a culture here. Everybody either knows somebody that's around here or we're just coming to meet new people. It's a very essential thing for our culture to have because if we don't have a place where we can have a reunion, like we do every year for the past 10-plus years anyway, before it even became a national holiday—it was the best thing ever for us. This is where we came to release. This is where our summer started. This is where everybody found out about new people, found out about new businesses, clothing, family. Anything that you can think of, it's here.

An Aurora Grandma: Today symbolizes for African Americans our freedom. I mean to me it's just as significant as the Fourth of July. That's the United States holiday, and Juneteenth is African Americans' holiday for our freedom. I celebrate it every year and I try to support just about every event...the concerts and the food and the interactions.

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Left: The Absolute Gospel Praise Team led the Sunday afternoon music performances as attendees danced in the street and gathered in the nearby shade to celebrate Juneteenth.

Right: Shaunie Starr (right): I come to Juneteenth to export all of the products that Haiti has to offer. Shaunie Starr Imports offers international artwork, natural cocoa, natural beans, natural lotions—everything at Juneteenth.

Naomi Patterson (front left): I come to Juneteenth because it is a celebration of Black people, it is Independence Day for us, and because I want to support locally-owned Black businesses in Colorado. They have shut down Five Points, which was historically-owned Black companies and businesses, in order to gentrify the area and make it non-Black. So...this is why I come—to support them and make sure they are making money as well.



Quentin Lewis: Rad Dad is an acronym for reactivate active and dedicated dads. What I really want to do is change the narrative that's been painted specifically for Black fathers and minority fathers that our children are growing up fatherless. I want the true picture of who we are and what we stand for to be seen. My first Juneteenth festival was right here in Five Points when I was five or six. It was something we always looked forward to. My mother would buy outfits and stuff just to celebrate this occasion. I never thought, all those years ago, that I would actually be in the event. I believe it's just coming to light what the real celebration of Juneteenth is, the actual last day of slavery. I'm letting my children know that the freedoms we have were not given to us overnight. There were a lot of people who literally died for us to be here now. I want them to recognize and appreciate the people who actually did give their lives.



Imani and Hasan Latif, Aurora
Imani: This is our community and this is the main time we can get together and see everyone we've known for a long time, especially after Covid. There's African stuff to buy, it's fun, and it's safe. The national holiday did surprise me, but I also think that there's a lot of other things that we would really need besides that. I would love to see the George Floyd Bill and the Voting Rights Bill passed before the holiday...but I'll take the holiday. I was trying to figure out—we're celebrating that some people heard about freedom three years later? I didn't quite get it. But it's a really good opportunity for us to come together. And we need that. We're only four percent of the state population...
Hasan: ...and most of them are right here today! Our family conversations

Below: Former District 5 Commander Ron Thomas, now Division Chief of Patrol, was with Police Chief Paul Pazen at Juneteenth. Thomas identified the young man in this photo as Elijah Beauford, who goes by the title, "The Young Activist," and said he has been helpful in the past and has offered again to assist DPD with meaningful and authentic dialogue between police and the Black community.



with kids and grandkids aren't so much about Juneteenth as they are about pride in your own ethnicity and family. And being empathetic and understanding other people's issues. We're just trying to keep our family safe, our grandchildren in particular. We want them to avoid some of the things we had to experience coming up in America as Black people. I used to work right on this street, about 12 years ago, and you can hardly recognize it anymore. It's good to see some economic development and growth in the area, but I'm just concerned about those people that have been displaced as a result of it.



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How Restaurants Recovered



Front Porch photos by Steve Larson



People asked Troy Guard (left) if he enjoyed all the downtime. But he went to the office daily to manage the situation with his numerous restaurants.

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

When the pandemic brought the restaurant industry to a screeching halt, owners were left with kitchens full of food, employees needing support, vendors to pay, leases to fulfill, and investors to account to. While many restaurants couldn't withstand the impact and had to close, many made it to the other side. Four neighborhood restaurant owners share how they survived and how they're changing their business models going forward.

"It takes 3-5 years for a restaurant to get its legs under it. We were 2 1/2 years in when the pandemic hit," says Rick Humbert, co-owner of Intersections, serving breakfast and lunch in Central Park. Like many restaurants, Intersections increased their carryout business. "People were supportive in patronizing us with orders and were very generous with their gratuities. The revenue from carryout kept the doors open and helped with our fixed expenses," he says.

For Morgan McKay, who co-owns Oblio's Pizzeria with her sister and mother, the nature of their product gave them an advantage. "We've been gifted in a sense because, as a pizzeria, it's already a big takeout and delivery business," she says. During the pandemic, they expanded their delivery radius beyond their Park Hill location to surrounding neighborhoods, continuing their practice of doing their own delivery, using staff as drivers to help keep them employed. They also added takeout wine, beer, and sangria.



Focusing on a pared down menu, streamlining the phone system, and carryout helped Jeff Miceli's family-owned restaurant, Mici Handcrafted Italian, get through the pandemic.

Mici Handcrafted Italian, which is opening a seventh Colorado location, refocused their marketing efforts to delivery, takeout, and curbside pickup, which was new for the 17-year-old company whose business is primarily dine-in. They also installed a new phone system that rang differently depending on whether it was a call for delivery or pickup to streamline response. The menu changed too. "Back in March and April of 2020, you didn't know what was going to happen with staffing," says Jeff Miceli, president and co-founder of Mici which has a location in Central Park. "So, simplifying our menu felt like the right thing to do. We took out things that were difficult to produce or weren't selling."

Troy Guard, chef/owner of TAG Restaurant Group, which operates seven concepts in more than fifteen locations in Denver metro area, and Houston, also reduced menu items which meant reduced kitchen costs.

"When March hit last year, it was like someone pulled the plug," Guard says. "Being in the business for 35 years, I had never seen anything like this." When the restaurants were closed, Guard went to his office daily. "I was figuring things out with our accountant, investors, banks, landlords, and vendors," he says. When it came time to re-open, it was like opening a new restaurant, including ordering food, hiring staff, and cleaning – but in multiples.

Carryout and patio service were helpful, says Guard, but isn't what saved them. "It was a means to keep going and break even or lose a little bit instead of a lot." In Central

Park, they took advantage of having side-by-side restaurants to provide spaced seating, spreading out Hashtag's daytime diners into Los Chingones' space and vice versa in the evening.

In recovery mode, the restaurants are keeping what worked during the pandemic. At Mici, they're retaining curbside pickup, having learned that their customers, many of whom



Expanding upon their existing delivery and carryout business helped co-owners Tegwin McKay (left), Morgan McKay (right) and their mother, (Dawn McKay), retain their Oblio's Pizzeria staff.



Summer of Joy

Are you ready for a climbing and soaring,                  

By Ken Lutes

“Why do we flush our toilets with perfectly good drinking water? It doesn’t make any sense,” says John Bell, Chief Commercial Officer of Greyter Water Systems. Over the next 18-24 months, Greyter will be installing greywater recycling appliances in 40 new homes being built in Central Park by Lennar Homes.

"I think we'd all agree that water's a precious resource. In Colorado, maybe even more precious, considering the importance of the Colorado River in seven states and the nearly 40 million people needing that water. If you can get a second use out of it for toilet flushing, it just seems like an absolute no-brainer."

Bell provides water usage calculations that show showers and baths will provide all the greywater needed to meet the daily demand of toilet-flushing: A shower uses two gallons per minute, so two 10-minute showers would use 40 gallons. Toilets today use 1.28 gallons per flush, so daily toilet-flushing for a family of four uses about 25 gallons if each person flushes five times a day. A greywater appliance would save a family of four about 9,000 gallons annually.

An added benefit of the Greyter system is it detects toilet leaks. “If it’s a slow leak, you may never know that the toilet flapper isn’t sitting right or the fill valve is slightly open,” Bell adds.

The quality of recycled greywater—typically water drained from bathroom sinks and showers—must meet certain standards.*

Bell says the standard for evaluating reused water quality (NSF350) produces greywater to a near-potable level. “All greywater systems need multiple stages of filtration for disinfection, which is nearly impossible to do in a small system because you need to hold a volume of water. We spent about five years trying to optimize the size based on holding capacity and the way we filter and treat water.” The Greyter system is about the size of a stacked washer and dryer.



Front Porch photo/illustration by Steve Larson.

from \$4,500 to \$5,000, depending on the exact home installation. This solution is ideal for large-scale, new construction, but retrofitting is “almost cost prohibitive, unless you’re doing a major renovation,” says Bell. “[In an older home] you’re not going to open up walls and ceilings, re-tile and re-drywall to deal with the challenges of isolating that greywater. If you were trying to retrofit a three-story house, trying to capture a master bedroom on the third floor and get that water down to the basement, for sure, it wouldn’t make sense.”

About half of single-family residential water use is outdoors, and a hot, dry year can mean customers use more water than usual, accord-

GREYWATER

*40 Central Park homes
to use shower water to flush*

Receiving NSF 350 certification “requires 26 weeks of continuous testing with regularly scheduled sampling throughout, typically three days a week,” according to NSF’s website (bit.ly/35Fy-wrN). “It’s a pretty nasty cocktail,” Bell says, “that includes shampoo, toothpaste, conditioner and soap dosed into your system every day; you have to treat and process that water daily, then you’re tested on the water quality that has to meet a specific target, with no user maintenance.”

The base price of
Greyter's appliance ranges

ing to Denver Water (bit.ly/2TS0LDN). Recycled water can contribute significant savings of fresh water, and that savings is reflected on your monthly water bill.

"We see the Lennar Homes project [with a model home at 5668 Dallas St.] providing some leadership in this arena," said CEO Mark Sales. "If we can manage water more efficiently within the home and create more water-efficient communities, that's where we think we get the win for everybody. Ultimately we believe it's just a matter of time before you see a considerable percentage of new building incorporate greywater recycling as a common appliance within the household."

* In Colorado, Regulation 86 (bit.ly/3wKNEjB) establishes the criteria for local municipalities. Nationally, NSF 350 standards, included in Regulation 86, must be met.



Photo of John Bell, co-founder of Greyter Water Systems, is courtesy of Greyter.

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DETAILS

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Available Dates:

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July 19-23

August 9-13

View and add local events FREE at FrontPorchNE.com/events. Submissions by the 17th will be considered for printing in the upcoming month's paper.

Please double check event dates and times using contact info provided.

NE DENVER/NW AURORA EVENTS

Every Sunday thru mid-October—Central Park Farmer's Market. Colorado-grown produce, baked goods, meats, and more at The Green (29th Ave & Roslyn) 9am–1pm. mca80238.com

Every Sunday thru 8/8—City Park Jazz. 6–8pm. City Park Pavilion, 1700 N. York St., cityparkjazz.org
—July 4: Purnell Steen & the Five Points Ambassadors
—July 11: SUCH
—July 18: Chris Daniels & the Kings w/Freddi Gowdy
—July 25: SPECIAL EVENT: Celebrating Denver Jazz Heritage with the El Chapultepec All Stars Featuring Tony Black
—Aug 1: Nelson Rangell

Every Thursday thru 9/30—Park Hill Farm & Flea. A Thursday Night Market featuring local makers, food purveyors, live music, and more. Oneida Park, 2231 Oneida St., from 4–8pm. parkhillfarmandflea.com

Every Friday thru 8/27—Stanley Farm & Flea. 9am–1pm. 2501 Dallas St, Aurora, in the South-east Plaza. stanleyfarmandflea.com

Tuesdays & Thursdays—Sunrise Vinyasa Yoga at the Denver Botanic Gardens. 9:15am. All levels welcome. \$12, \$10 members. Register at botanicgardens.org

Every Saturday thru 10/30—City Park Farmers Market. 60+ Colorado-based vendors offering locally-made produce and products. 8am–1pm at 2551 E. Colfax Ave. cityparkfarmersmarket.com

7/3 Saturday—Music Under the Stars: The Long Run The Green (29th Ave & Roslyn St.) Begins at 6pm. mca80238.com

7/8 Thursday—MoJaBlu Concert series: Ron Ivory Motown Review Conservatory Green (49th & Valentia.) Begins at 6:30pm. mca80238.com

7/9 Friday—Outdoor Movie Series: Remember the Titans The Green (29th Ave & Roslyn St). Movie starts at dusk. mca80238.com

7/9 thru 9/26—Van Gogh Alive. A large-scale, multi-sensory experience to entertain the whole family. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St., Aurora. Tickets at denvercenter.org

7/10 Saturday—Live Music Yoga and Beer at Station 26. \$1 off your first craft brew after class. Email Lora at loralovesyoga@gmail.com

7/11, 7/18 & 7/25—Sunday Summer Music Series at Stanley West patio at Stanley Market-place, 2501 N. Dallas St., Aurora. Starts at 1–4pm. stanleymarketplace.com

7/17 Saturday—Denver Police Departments (District 5) Safety Expo. 10am–2pm, 8340 Northfield Blvd. shopsatnorthfield.com/event/Denver-Police-DepartmentSafety-Expo/2145551241

7/22 Thursday—MoJaBlu Concert series: Jacob Larson Band Conservatory Green (49th & Valentia.) Begins at 6:30pm. mca80238.com

7/23 Friday—Outdoor Movie Series Jumanji: The Next Level The Green (29th Ave & Roslyn St). Movie starts at dusk. mca80238.com

7/23 to 8/22—Five Guys Named Moe. A musical featuring the works of jazz legend Louis Jordan. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. vintage theatre.org

7/25 Sunday—Dash for Smiles 5K. Benefiting the cleft lip and palate programs in Colorado. Central Park. dashforsmiles.org

7/31 Saturday—Music Under the Stars: Thumpin' The Green (29th Ave & Roslyn St.) Begins at 6:30pm. mca80238.com

July & Early Aug Events

7/31 Saturday—District 5 free document shredding/adult bike giveaway. 10am–2pm, Albrook/ Peoria St. (old RTD lot) denvergov.org

Through Sept 6—SummerSkate. The Shops at Northfield Stapleton. \$10, includes skate rental. shopsatnorthfield.com

JULY 4TH EVENTS

7/2 & 7/3—Rockies vs. St. Louis Cardinals at Coors Field. Fireworks display after the game. mlb.com/rockies

7/2 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park's Independence Day Celebration. 5–9pm. Live music, pioneer games, & food trucks. Glendale fireworks show at sunset. Ticket info at fourmilepark.org, discounts for FMHP members. 715 S. Forest St., 720-865-0800.

7/2 Friday—Glendale Fireworks Show. One of the largest and oldest displays in Denver. Starts at dusk. For best parking and viewing info go to milehighonthecheap.com/denver-fourth-of-july/

7/3 Saturday—Civic Center Independence Eve Celebration. 4–9:30pm, free concert and the Colorado Symphony performs with a light display on the Denver City & County Building and a fireworks finale. Food truck fare with beer & wine gardens. More info at milehighonthecheap.com/denver-fourth-of-july/

7/4 Sunday—Park Hill Annual 4th of July Parade. Floats, music, classic cars, community groups, costumed characters and more! Parade starts at 1:30pm and runs along 23rd Ave. from Dexter St. to Krameria St. parkhillparade.org

7/4 Sunday—Aurora 4th of July Spectacular. Free activities from 6–10pm. Live music, delicious food, and fireworks at 9:30pm. Aurora Municipal Center Great Lawn, 15151 E. Alameda Pkwy. auroragov.org

7/4 Sunday—Central Park Pancake Breakfast & Parade. 2021 details to come, go to mca80238.com closer to event day.

7/4 Sunday—Colorado Rapids vs. Seattle Sounders FC. 4thFest Celebration, fireworks after the game. coloradorapids.com

7/4 Sunday —Elitch Gardens. Fireworks at park closing time.

METRO EVENTS

Various Dates—Active Minds Seminars. Check out the schedule for webinars in July, and some in-person, Denver metro area events at activeminds.com

7/2 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Art District on Santa. 5:30–9:30pm. denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

7/7–8/11, Wednesdays—Mixed Taste Lecture Series. Return of this popular DCPA, off-beat series, online or in-person at the Seawall Ballroom. Tickets at denvercenter.org

7/8 Thursday—Shady Grove Summer Concert. Possessed by Paul James, all ages. 6:30pm. Swallow Hill at Four Mile Historic Park. Tickets \$10-20 at swallowhillmusic.org

7/8 Thursday—Riverfront Park Summer Sessions. Live music, art, vendors, food trucks, craft brews, and more on the historic 19th Street Bridge. Free entry. Commons Park, 15th St. & Little Raven St.

7/9 Friday—B-Side Music Fridays. Rooftop, garden performance. Vic N' the Narwhals & the Kinky Fingers. 1485 Delgany St. mcadenver.org

7/9 to 7/11—Colorado Black Arts Festival. 35th annual celebration of African American art and culture, free. City Park West. colbaf.org

7/12 to 8/30—Evenings al Fresco. Concerts Monday/Wednesday evenings at Denver Botanic Gardens. 1007 York St. Tickets at botanicgardens.org

Movie Madness at Infinity Park. Free, gates open 6pm, movies start at 7:30. 7/12- *Spiderman into the Spiderverse*, 7/29- *Raya and the Last Dragon*. Infinity Park, Glendale. infinityparkatglendale.com

7/15 to 7/18—Cherry Creek North Side-walk Sale. Hundreds of one-of-a-kind items from the shops of Cherry Creek North. cherrycreek-north.com

7/16 to 7/17—Mile High Dance Festival. Open-air celebration of Art and Dance. Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, 119 Park Ave W. Free & VIP tickets but must reserve at cleoparkerdance.org

7/17 Saturday—Blues & BBQ. 9 bands, craft beer, amazing food, and artisan vendors to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Citizens Park, 5560 W. 24th Ave. bluesnbbq.com

7/22 Thursday—Night at the Movies for Special Olympics Colorado. Event begins at 6pm, movie starts at dusk. 1700 E Louisiana Ave. specialolympicsco.org/event/movie

8/3 Tuesday—CF Climb Denver. Empower Field at Mile High Stadium. Stair climb benefits Cystic Fibrosis. 5:30pm. In-person and online options. Register by 8/2 at cff.org/rockymountain/

Weekends thru 8/22—Colorado Renaissance Festival. Larkspur. coloradorenaissance.com

KIDS AND FAMILIES

Find Summer camp listings—Check out our 2021 camp guide at frontporchne.com/article/2021-summer-camp-guide/. Or search the category “Summer Camp Guide” at frontporchne.com/events/.

7/7 Wednesday—Mornings at the Museum. Ages 3–6, July's theme is animals. 10:30–11am. 15051 East Alameda Pkwy. To reserve your spot, go to auroragov.org

7/10 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. 10am–2pm. Get a close up look! Wings Over the Rockies Museum. wingsmuseum.org

7/18 Sunday—Sensory Friendly Morning at Wings. 10–11:30am. For people with sensory processing sensitivities and their families. Wings Over the Rockies Museum. wingsmuseum.org

7/19 to 8/7—Parade of Playhouses One-of-a-kind children's playhouses. Raffle to benefit Junior Achievement programs. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora. stanleymarketplace.com

To 8/13—Learn to Row Summer Programs for teens. Join the Mile High Rowing Club on Cherry Creek reservoir. Six, one-week programs. milehighrowing.org

To 8/21—Denver Public Libraries Summer of Adventure. Activities that will help you to read, make, and explore! For Denver kids birth to 12th grade. Free. denverlibraryadventures.org

MUSEUMS, ETC.

American Museum of Western Art. Advanced tickets required, admission is \$5. 1727 Tremont Pl. anschutzcollection.org

Aurora History Museum. Advanced reservation is required, admission is free. 15051 East Alameda Pkwy. auroragov.org

The Byers–Evans House Museum. Timed tickets required, History Colorado members are

free. 1310 Bannock St. Tickets at historycolorado.org

The Children's Museum. Wed–Sun, by reservation only at mychildsmuseum.org

Clyfford Still Museum. SCFD Free Day Sunday, July 25. Reserve tickets in advance. 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

Denver Art Museum. Youth 18 & under always free. 100 W 14th Ave. Pkwy. denverartmuseum.org

Denver Botanic Gardens. Advanced tickets and member reservations required. 1007 York St. botanicgardens.org

Denver Firefighters Museum. Tues–Sat, 10am–4pm. 1326 Tremont Pl. denverfirefightersmuseum.org

Denver Museum of Nature and Science. New exhibits including *Numbers in Nature: A Mirror Maze*. 2001 Colorado Blvd. Timed tickets required. dmns.org

The Forney Museum of Transportation. Thurs–Sat, 10am–5pm; Sun, noon–5pm. 4303 Brighton Blvd. forneymuseum.org

Four Mile Historic Park. Historic oasis and site of Denver's oldest standing structure. Wed–Sun, 10am–4pm. 715 S. Forest St. fourmilepark.org

History Colorado. Some exhibits are timed entry and free with museum admission. 1200 Broadway. More info at historycolorado.org

Molly Brown House Museum. Permanent collection plus this summer's exhibit *Looking Forward/Looking Back*, 1340 Pennsylvania St. mollybrown.org

Museo de las Americas. Newest exhibit: *SOMOS: On Domestic Violence, Resilience and Healing*. 861 Santa Fe Drive. museo.org

Museum of Contemporary Art Denver. Penny admission 1st Sat. of the month. 1485 Delgany St. mca-denver.org

National Ballpark Museum. Tues–Sat, 11am–5pm. 1940 Blake St. ballparkmuseum.com

The Urban Farm. Open Fri 9:30am–1pm, Sat & Sun 9am–1pm. 10200 Smith Rd. theurbanfarm.org

Wings Over the Rockies Museum. Showing the National Geographic film *Living in the Age of Airplanes*. 7711 East Academy Blvd. wingsmuseum.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Mentoring high performing, low income students. Minds Matter is recruiting our next class of college access mentors to help high-performing, low-income high school. mindsmatterdenver.org

Project Worthmore. Help bag and deliver fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy, and household necessities to refugees in Denver and Aurora. projectworthmore.org

Reading Volunteers Needed. Stedman Elementary and Bill Roberts Middle School. More info at partnersinliteracy.org

Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) For volunteer opportunities, email Cathy Law at claw@voacolorado.org

Ronald McDonald House Charities Volunteer. Go to ronaldhouse.org under “How You Can Help” for info.

Sand Creek Greenway Volunteer Opportunities. For more info, email cgarwood@sandcreekgreenway.org or go to sandcreekgreenway.org/upcoming-volunteer-opportunities/

Single Volunteers of Greater Denver. Volunteer, not-for-profit singles group to meet others and assist nonprofit organizations for events/activities. svgd.org

Village Exchange Center Food pantry and summer camp volunteers needed. Sign up at villageexchangecenter.org

Volunteers of America Colorado Branch For volunteer opportunities, email bgulley@voacolorado.org

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Ashley Principal Liz TenCate says she very concerned about kids who decide to stay remote. “I would love to see data. I want families who make that decision to understand the ramifications, particularly on early learning.”

By Tracy Wölfer-Osborne

If you call 2020 “a lost academic year,” Susan Miller-Curley, the incoming principal at Montclair School of Academics and Enrichment, will be quick to point out the positive. “It was not a lost year,” she says. “Our students learned independence, how to organize their work, and our communication with families is so much stronger. We actually gained a lot of skills.”

Miller-Curley isn’t the only optimist. Linda August, Inspire Elementary School’s brand new principal, says, “COVID-19 pushed us to our limits, but it also showed us what we’re capable of; it was precarious and unknown, but our educators are strong and passionate. They didn’t quit.”

Liz TenCate, principal at Ashley Elementary School and former principal at Swigert Elementary (2017-2019) and Cory Elementary (2011-2017) says the bright spot was, “ending the school year with in-person learning. With 95 percent of the staff vaccinated, it was great to see kids settle back into social relationships. Even with masks and constant hand-washing, it gave us a sense of hope for normalcy and a belief that things will be better in the future.”

The Future is a Hybrid of Old, New, Focus, & Fun

Much of academia is returning to normal. According to August, students will no longer need to cohort or avoid their peers in the halls, and they will be allowed to share materials. “That’s huge,” says August. “Because not being able to share or play with the same toy can create a strained friendship. When you have to stay three feet apart it changes the dynamic of a relationship; kids miss hugging up on their teachers. They can do projects together; they can ask questions together side-by-side.”

Educators are also finding ways to keep what worked during COVID. According to August, they’ve known for a long time that online learning works best for some kids, and COVID allowed them to work out some of the kinks in online learning. “We have to figure out how to combine what we did before with



Linda August says her focus is in educating the “whole child.” “We’re looking at all students, and we’re pushing them all forward.”

the new normal to create best practices.”

One of Miller-Curley’s goals is to complete a home visit with every family by the end of August. “We found there’s higher participation if we do it virtually, so we’ll do that again. We’re really dedicated to sitting down with all our families and talking about their student’s hopes and dreams. We’ve learned showing up and showing that you care about their kids goes a long way to making kids feel welcome.”

Principals Optimistic about 2021-22

According to TenCate, the key to best practices will be creating engagement, so students can stay invested and make big gains. “Although we don’t have comprehensive data sets at this point, it does look like about 80 percent of our younger students who stayed remote all year did experience significant learning loss. It’s really hard to teach a kindergartner to read online. It’s extremely difficult

to understand the concept of numeracy without manipulatives. We are the students’ first entry into education, so it’s hugely important that we develop a love for learning. There’s a laser focus on skill building and concept building, but there’s a balance that keeps kids excited to come to school to learn. We can do remediation without losing that joyful piece. Little people—especially—have to see the meaning, and they have to find the joy, or it’s not going to stick.”

Miller-Curley describes additional staffing and resources that will help students get caught up after a year of online learning. “We have a strong data assessment system that lets us know where kids are, so we can give them the help they need. We also have four senior team leads... working with kids, so that’s a lot of additional support in literacy and math. We’re also using our stimulus money to fund mental health.”

Building Equity Through Community

Miller-Curley says, “We have to create classrooms where kids are safe, loved, and seen.” Part of that “seen” piece means communities whose contributions and histories that have previously been marginalized by the education system need to be more fully integrated into the curriculum.. Miller-Curley likens the new approach to teaching a novel where no one’s history is relegated to just one chapter. “We can’t keep telling just one side of the story. Kids have to see themselves in the curriculum.”

The district does not teach Critical Race Theory, says Will Jones, Director of External Communications for DPS, but conversations with the principals make clear that they are embracing a new anti-racist curriculum—one that moves beyond teaching the history of slavery and the Civil Right’s Movement to a curriculum that is fully inclusive. Some of the district’s work includes implicit bias training for teachers,

reading anti-racist literature, and working with Promise 54, a group dedicated to recruiting and retaining educators of color. The Board has also passed two resolutions intended to support an inclusive learning environment—The Know Justice, Know Peace Resolution and the Black Excellence Resolution. The former calls for curriculum and professional practices to “include comprehensive historical and contemporary contributions [of] Black, Indigenous, and Latino communities.” The latter aims to “prioritize student success, be a district that is community-driven and expertly-supported [while] being equitable by design.”

Miller-Curley’s staff is reading “Enrique’s Journey” and “Stamped: Racism, Anti-racism, And You,” and she adds, “The district has developed modules called The Equity Experience that all teachers and administrators will be going through in the next year or two.”

Ashley Elementary has partnered with an organization called “Young Men of Purpose” as part of their equity work.



Susan Miller-Curley calls Montclair a “hidden gem” with one of the most diverse populations in Denver. They’re 42 percent black or African American, 34 percent Latino, with 11 percent identifying as multiple races.

The mentoring program provides boys from 4th grade to high school with coaching, role-modeling, and other opportunities. TenCate calls it, “a partnership that builds community.”

Inspire Elementary hosted a focus group for black parents. August says, “We started by asking, ‘What has your experience been with our school?’ And it was a great first step. We had a lot of other questions to ask, but that one carried the conversation for a really long time, so we let them talk, and we listened. We really listened.”



Spring has sprung
SADLY, SO HAS ALLERGY SEASON

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July is sci-fi season once again. The 11th annual Science Fiction Film Series, sponsored by the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, the Denver Film Society, and MSU Denver, will continue with three virtual shows this year. The first was in June, but details on the next two are below. Stay tuned for more news on a special show at the Museum in the fall, when they are back to full capacity and when we unveil a book project two years in the making.

I also give a short review of an excellent sci-fi series on TV now.

Tuesday, July 7: *Metropolis* with space scientist KaChun Yu

This is a virtual show, and you will need to screen the film on your own. It is also available through the Virtual Cinema at www.denverfilm.org. A caution: there are many different versions of the film, and the Film Society will have the best, complete version of this brilliant, seminal sci-fi classic.

Produced in 1925 by legendary German director Fritz Lang, *Metropolis* was the film that gave us so much of the sci-fi look we still use today. It has everything you want in sci-fi: a clash between the poor and the rich, a bifurcated society literally built on the backs of the poor, an autocrat who uses a mad scientist to create a robot (Maria!) which then wreaks havoc on society and widens the divide, and a love story wherein the angel comes to the aid of the poor to lead them out of bondage. If all that sounds melodramatic, formulaic, or even sappy, you are not wrong, but this was the first film to put all of all that together. And that is barely half the tale.

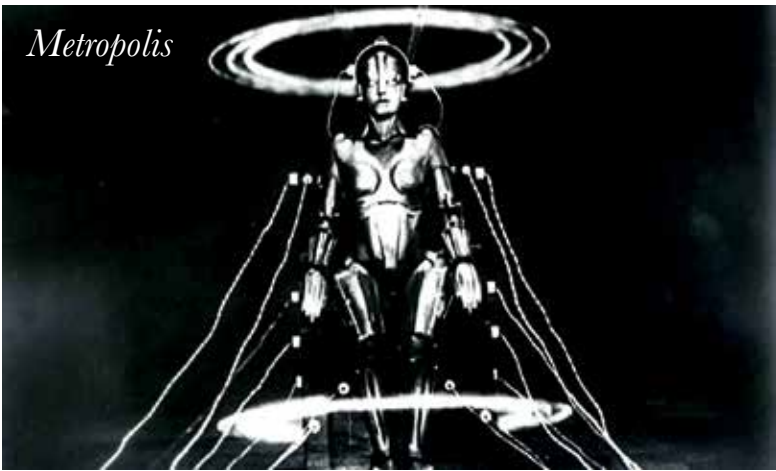
The visuals are the real tale: Lang was a technical genius, working in an era when film was edited by hand with scissors and glue and synchronous sound was still a few years away. The sets are marvelous, the lighting is dazzling, the editing is staggering, and the special effects were groundbreaking and far ahead of its time. At times it plays like a Wagnerian opera with a futuristic look that still resonates today. The poor, working class move in rhythmic repose in their underground dungeons on their

way to and from work as though they are hypnotized while the rich comport in frenzied, jerky movements as they race through their pleasure-garden-filled world. The visuals make you feel.

Some of those visuals are iconic: the futuristic skyscrapers (inspired by a trip to NYC in the 20s), the flying cars and busy megalopolis with the money-baron looking down, and even certain building designs that were copied by such films as *Blade Runner*, among others. And of course there is the robot Maria—a cultural icon brought to life in a

flash of brilliance that remains energetic and has inspired countless copies and iterations. You will know it when you see it even if you have never seen it.

Join us for the virtual discussion as I analyze the film while space scientist KaChun Yu analyzes the science. For details and tickets, go to www.denverfilm.org or the DMNS website.



Tuesday, July 20: *Jurassic Park* with paleontologist Tyler Lyson

The thrilling classic directed by Steven Spielberg in 1993 doesn't disappoint today with its thrills and chills. Spielberg imbues the film with his classic mix of comedy, drama, and humanity while keeping us on the edge of our seats. You get the added bonus this time of screening it at the Film on the Rocks series on Monday, July 19, and then joining our virtual discussion the next day. We will discuss the groundbreaking special effects of the film—which changed the movies forever—as well as the actual science of bringing dinosaurs back to life. There is so much to discuss!

For more information and tickets, go to the www.denverfilm.org site and search for Film on the Rocks. Be sure to get tickets for both the film and the discussion!



The War of The Worlds (Epix)

Oh no! you say, not yet another adaptation of the classic H.G. Wells novel from 1897! The most famous presentation of the original was an Orson Welles 1938 radio broadcast that was presented as an actual alien invasion and supposedly panicked Americans all over the country. A 1953 film adaptation followed, a 2005 Steven Spielberg film starring Tom Cruise was a dud, and then an interesting (and quite frightening) English-produced three-part miniseries followed in 2019. The latest series is a loose adaptation set in France and England, and it is absolutely worth the watch. It is hard to discuss without spoiling but let me say that while it starts out slow with fits and starts, it is rewards for your investment.

As aliens invade, we follow several different stories: an English family where the dad becomes stranded in Paris, an African refugee stowing away to London, a French astronomer in the Alps who is joined by the military, a divorced (and estranged) middle-aged couple who are forced back together, and several subplots therein. The character development is precise and methodical, the acting is excellent, and the writing is crisp and concise. There are a few familiar faces—Gabriel Byrne and Elizabeth McGovern as the couple—but most will be unfamiliar to American audiences. That works.

The direction is what shines here—the characterizations are swift, the cinematography is at times brilliant and then suddenly realist, the editing is remarkable

(keeping us grounded with so many different storylines and locations), and the music is more than complementary. The series is a must for sci-fi fans.

Season One is free with most cable systems and Season Two just started on EPIX. (I am getting dizzy with all the new platforms as well!)

Vincent Piturro, Ph.D., is a Professor of Film and Media Studies at MSU Denver. Contact him directly at vpiturro@msudenver or follow him on Twitter.

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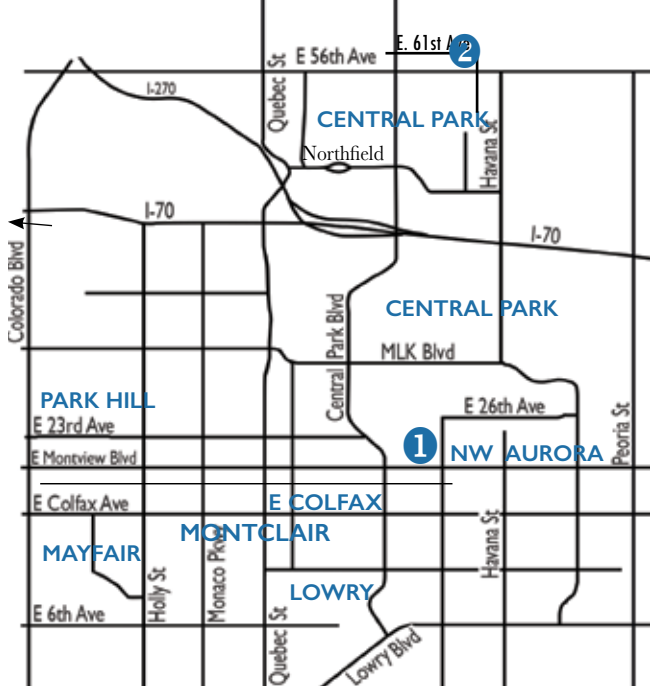
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...NE News Updates



By Carol Roberts

1 Alexan Montview Plaza Followup

According to the proposal submitted by developer Trammell Crow Residential, information on this proposal was sent to adjacent property owners and five registered neighborhood organizations; one comment was received from the local homeowners association, which supported the project.

Aurora requires that developments contribute to local parks and schools. The plans indicate that the developer will pay cash in lieu of providing land to the school district or building a “Small Urban Park” onsite. A courtyard on the west side of Building #1 is described as integrating with Westerly Creek. The



The Alexan Montview Plaza project to build 394 apartments proposes a pedestrian bridge over Chester St. for access to the 4-story parking garage.

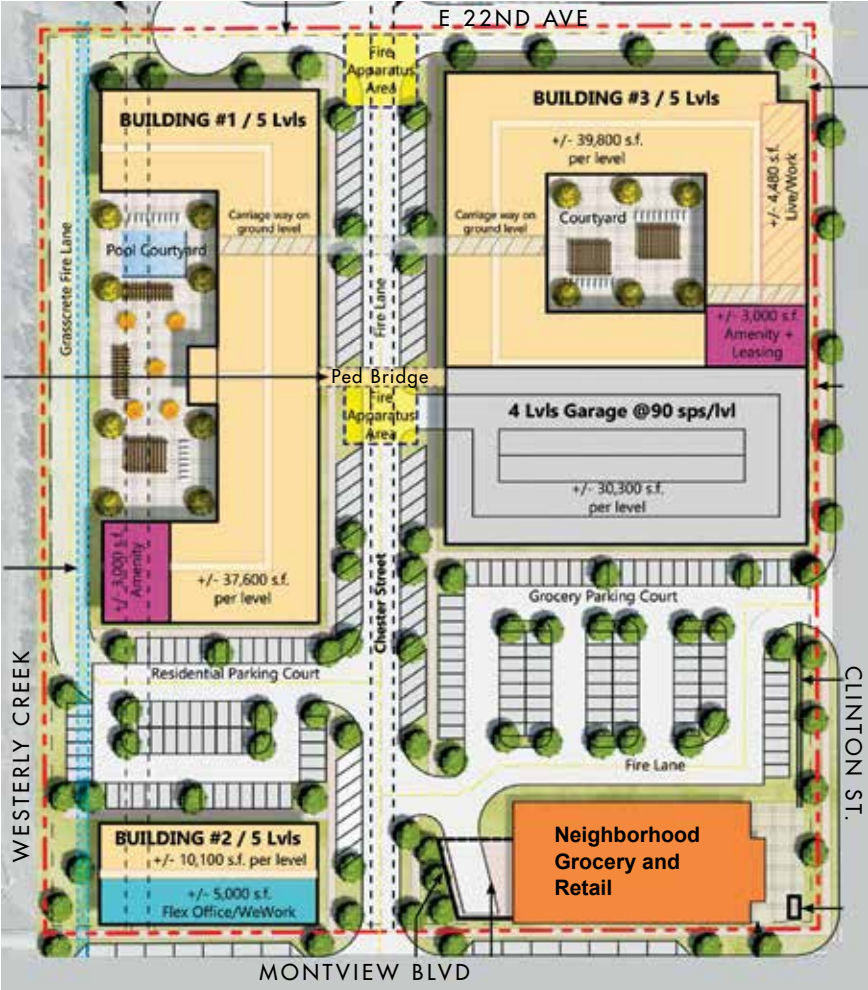
Right: The proposed Alexan Montview Plaza development, initially introduced on this page last month, provided additional information to the Aurora Planning Department on June 11, including the siteplan at right and the rendering below.

The plan for five 5-story buildings with 394 units would join the two lots on either side of Chester St., making that a private street with a pedestrian bridge from Building #1 to the 4-story parking garage.

The proposal requests a variance from the currently zoned 150-foot maximum building length for the 330-foot long Building #1.

A “carriage way” connects the swimming pool and Westerly Creek-facing patio area to the Building #3 courtyard.

The buildings along Montview include 5,000 SF “Flex office/WeWork” space and approximately 14,000 SF for neighborhood grocery and retail at the corner of Clinton.



22nd Ave. cul de sac will have a paved walkway with public access to Westerly Creek.

This project is just south of Stanley Marketplace where 168 new units are planned, and it is next to 2201 Clinton a new 4-building, 338-unit apartment complex currently under construction.

The three projects will bring a total of 900 apartment units to a 3-block area. The “Montview Plaza” plans can be found at: <https://commerce.auroragov.org/developmentplanreviewpub/MyProjects/Home.aspx>

2 Unique Denver Parks Are Coming to Central Park Neighborhood North of 56th

After parks in the Central Park neighborhood’s “trunk” open space get completed and vegetation is established, they are officially made part of the City of Denver’s parks. South of I-70 in Central Park, Greenway Park, Westerly Creek Park, Central Park and Sand Creek Park have officially joined the Denver Parks system.

North of I-70, parks in the “trunk” open space continue to be developed, with construction scheduled to start on two unique amenities this fall and be completed in about a year in “High Plains Park,” just north of E. 57th Ave. between Elmira and Dallas Streets.

The bike park (or pump track), according to Wikipedia, has “a continuous circuit of banked turns and features designed to be ridden completely by riders ‘pumping’—generating momentum by up and down body movements, instead of pedaling or pushing.”

Areas within the trunk open space have been designed by Civitas Inc. landscape architects to combine sports and athletic amenities with opportunities to experience nature in a variety of settings, like the upcoming nature playground pictured at left. Other natural playgrounds in NE Denver can be found in the March *Front Porch* article, “New Playgrounds in NE Celebrate Nature, Inclusivity.”



Construction is expected to start this fall on a bike pump park and a nature playground in Central Park north of E. 57th Ave. and west of Elmira St..

SchoolChoice Waitlists

A look back at the charts in the June Front Porch And a look ahead at waitlists now through September

The DPS SchoolChoice Outcome charts in the June *Front Porch* were based on data available at the end of Round 1. Once Round 2 started, families have been able to log into their DPS account and prioritize an unlimited number of schools and change their SchoolChoice ranks as frequently as they wish. That means the number on any school’s waitlist will be changing continuously through September. Round 2 for preschools will continue through April 22 to be sure any seat that opens up will be filled.

Families who are unsure about how they can best use Round 2 SchoolChoice for their own circumstances should call the SchoolChoice Hotline at 720-423-3493 and request a conversation with the director or a supervisor, says Laurie Premeer, Director of Enrollment Services.

Although families can call schools to learn what the waitlist is at any given time, “Don’t worry about the waitlist,” advises Premeer, and apply anyway. Because waitlists are dynamic and depend on each applicant’s priorities, a waitlist of 60 doesn’t necessarily mean the next name is 61st on the list—so apply to a school if you’re interested in it!

When someone gets into their first-choice school, they get taken off the waitlist for all their other choices. “We think priorities are important. We honor them throughout Round 2,” says Premeer. When a student with a sibling gets into a school, the sibling immediately has a higher priority than those on the list without a sibling, and their waitlist position will typically get better. Residents of a school boundary or school zone will always have a higher priority than those not in the boundary or zone for that school.

The SchoolChoice Hotline will be answered from 8:30am to 12:30pm in English and Spanish every day until July 19, and after July 19 it will be answered until 4pm. In addition to the Hotline at 720-423-3493, families can email SchoolChoice@dpsK12.org and they can find information at SchoolChoice.dpsK12.org

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Front Porch photos by Steve Larson

New Life for Johnson & Wales Campus



Anthony McWright, principal of the Denver School of the Arts, hopes to use the Johnson & Wales' outdoor amphitheater for events such as Shakespeare in the park and other theatrical and musical productions.

By Mary Jo Brooks

An innovative partnership between an urban conservation group, Denver School of the Arts (DSA), two public housing organizations, a culinary incubator, and a private K-8 school will transform the Johnson and Wales campus in east Denver over the next twelve months. The unusual arrangement emerged after Johnson and Wales University announced last summer that it was closing its Denver campus.

Angelle Fother, with the Urban Land Conservancy (ULC), said soon after that announcement her organization was

approached by officials from the Denver Housing Authority and Denver Public Schools because they were interested in acquiring several buildings but couldn't afford to buy the entire 25-acre campus. The three entities decided to partner together to put in a bid. "We were one of three finalists and the only non-profit. The two competing bids were looking at redevelopment and possibly demolishing the campus. That became part of our motivation to make this thing work. We wanted to serve the community by preserving the campus," said Fother.

The ULC bid of \$62 million was ac-

cepted and went under contract in February. Since then, the coalition of partners has expanded to include Archway Communities, St. Elizabeth's School and the Kitchen Network. All of the partners say they are excited by the possibilities of how the campus will be transformed.

DSA principal Anthony McWright says the acquisition of four additional buildings will allow the school to expand and serve greater numbers of students, particularly students of color. "I'm a child of the arts. The arts changed my life, and I want to be able to create more access to arts classes

for more students in the Denver metro area." Currently, 1,100 students are enrolled at the school. McWright hopes eventually to expand that by 800-1,200 additional students. During the next several months, he will seek input from teachers, students, and the community about how to organize a larger school. One idea is to house grades 6-8 in the school's current building, and the high school in the newly acquired buildings. "Part of our discussions will be how to make this a real community hub. What programs can we offer after school? During the summer? How can we partner with other arts organizations?"



Former Johnson & Wales Culinary Dean Jorge de la Torre (left) and BuCu West Executive Director Jose Esparza are pictured in one of the commercial kitchens that will be available for caterers and small businesses.

Front Porch photo by Christie Gosh

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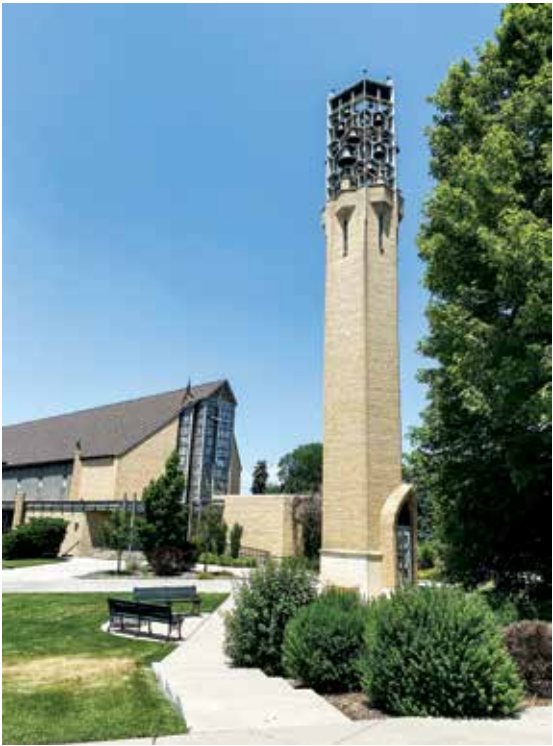
Left: Historic Founders Hall served as a dormitory for Johnson & Wales students. It will be transformed into 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom apartments for low-income families and will be managed by Archway Communities, a non-profit group that provides housing, food security and supportive services.



McWright says the plan is have the new buildings ready for the 2022-2023 school year.

Working at a smaller scale, but on a more rapid timetable, St. Elizabeth’s School hopes to open its doors to students in just two months. Currently located at 23rd Ave. and Gaylord Streets, the school will take over three floors of the old Colorado Women’s College Building. The school has an enrollment of 141 students, with 40 percent low income and 50 percent students of color. Adriana Murphy, head of school, says the Johnson and Wales campus will allow the school to grow its enrollment while also expand its programming. “We think this will be transformative for us and hopefully the neighboring community as well. We hope to partner with the Kitchen Network and the School of the Arts to offer new opportunities. Maybe we can have reading programs for our youngest students partnering with people living in senior housing. The possibilities seem endless.”

Six dormitories on the existing campus will be transformed into low-income housing. Two of the buildings will be managed by the Denver Housing Authority (DHA) for low-income seniors. Ryan Tobin, DHA’s chief real estate investment officer, says the agency hopes to create



The former chapel on the Johnson & Wales campus will be converted into a performance space for the Denver School of the Arts.

72 one-bedroom apartments in the historically significant buildings. Although many regulatory hurdles, accessibility issues, and building codes have to be sorted out, “we’re jumping in with both feet,” says Tobin. “I’d love to say that we could have apartments ready by the end of the year.”

The other four dormitories will be managed by Archway Communities, a non-profit organization that provides affordable housing, food security, and supportive social services. It currently has nine communities in the Denver area. It plans to create approximately 150 apartments for low-income families on the campus, which will include 1, 2, and 3-bedroom units. Archway also hopes to be able to create some retail spaces on the ground floor of the dormitories—perhaps a coffee

Below: The former University Events Center is one of four buildings on the former Johnson & Wales campus that the Denver School of the Arts will use to expand enrollment by 800-1200 additional students.

shop and a small market to serve residents. CEO Sebastian Corradino says the Johnson and Wales project was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. “Everyone knows how crazy the real estate market is right now. For us to be able to offer affordable housing in this neighborhood, partnering with schools, partnering with job training programs, it’s just incredible. It’s very exciting.” Archway hopes to utilize affordable housing and historic building tax credits to help with funding. The buildings likely won’t be ready for occupancy until the spring of 2023.

The Kitchen Network and BuCu West will take over two Johnson & Wales culinary buildings to provide job training, commercial kitchens for caterers and food trucks, and even a microbiology lab to do food testing for product development. The Kitchen Network, which currently serves 300 small businesses at its southwest Denver location, will keep that facility in operation, but the Johnson & Wales campus allows it to expand. “We are interested in growing to serve more small businesses, while also focusing more on education. We see a gap with a lot of entrepreneurs who want to get more formal culinary training, but they can’t afford it. So we want to bring that training to them,” says Jose

Esparza, executive director. The Kitchen Network has hired Jorge de la Torre, who served as the Dean of Culinary Education at Johnson & Wales for nearly 20 years, to lead that education effort. Esparza says the new facilities will also allow them to provide a dining facility, which could be used by the residents living on the campus, as well as the surrounding neighborhood. “This is a great opportunity to serve the community. In addition to the dining hall, we’re hoping to have a retail shop, and maybe even a farmers market so fresh produce is easily available to residents.”

The Urban Land Conservancy says it will soon begin holding community meetings to get more input on the transformation of the complex—including suggestions for a new name for the campus.

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