

# Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

OCTOBER 2021

**NORTHEAST DENVER**

*Renovated Museum Opens to the Public Oct. 24*

## DAM—An “Architectural Gem”



Front Porch photo by Steve Larson

The Anna and John J. Sie Welcome Center at the Denver Art Museum (DAM) is a glass beacon connecting the Hamilton Building (left) to the newly-renovated Lanny and Sharon Martin Building (right). The Welcome Center’s 52-panel glass façade is the largest in North America without intermediate framing. Museum Director Christoph Heinrich says, “Museums

tend to be hermetic because daylight and art don’t go well together, but the Welcome Center is the opposite of closed-off. The inside will be filled with light and joy. It is the wide open arms ready to embrace our amazing community.” There’s also new space to explore outside, including fresh landscaping and a brand new courtyard. *Story on page 14 by Tracy Wolfer Osborne.*

## Project Worthmore: Welcoming Refugees as they Start a New Life



Front Porch photo by Christie Gosch

Frank and Carolyn Anello, founders of Project Worthmore, are pictured at their headquarters in northwest Aurora where their non-profit provides multiple services for refugees and immigrants, including new arrivals from Afghanistan. *Story on page 4 by Carol Roberts.*

## Ballot Issues Pullout Page

Set aside some study time before voting this year—the ballot is long and complicated. We turned to an expert, Todd Engdahl, to provide background information and explanations of the ballot questions. Turn to pages 8 and 9 to learn about 13 city questions and three state questions on a wide range of issues.



Front Porch photo by Steve Larson

Three separate ballot questions are on the subject of housing and/or homelessness.

## NHS Students Walk Out and Speak Out About Sexual Harassment

*Story on page 5 by Carol Roberts*

## Breast Cancer Awareness Month

*Story on page 6 by Tracy Wolfer Osborne*



# Bird Sightings

## Mississippi Kite

Avg Weight: 9.4 oz.  
Avg Wingspan: 35 inches

This medium-sized raptor breeds in the Southeast and the southern Great Plains between May and September—and it winters in South America. It can be found in Colorado's eastern plains, but is rare in Denver—so bird watchers have been visiting the corner of 33rd and Fillmore in Park Hill in the past month to see a nest with a fledgling and two parents.

The Mississippi Kite is an insectivore and feeds on insects such as beetles, leafhoppers, grasshoppers, and dragonflies—but it will also feed on a variety of frogs, lizards, snakes, songbirds, small mammals, and bats. With acrobatic dexterity they extend one or both feet to grab prey from the air with their talons and often eat their prize while still flying.



Once fledged, the youngster remains near the nest as the parents continuously bring food to it. Soon the family will leave for their winter home in South America.

Read the picture story of the Park Hill Kite family to your kids. It's posted with this story at [FrontPorchNE.com](http://FrontPorchNE.com)

*Photos and information by George Ho.*

## Bird Walks

Oct. 2, and Nov. 6, 8–10am. Join George Ho and other bird experts for a free guided walk around Bluff Lake. All are welcome. Bring your own binoculars or borrowed ones will be available. 11255 MLK Blvd. [BluffLake.org](http://BluffLake.org)

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## Events & Announcements

# A Guide to Central Park Cluster Box Units

Communal mailboxes have become a common feature in neighborhoods and new community developments across the country, including here in Central Park. Cluster Boxes (CBU) are a centralized unit of individually locked compartments for the delivery and collection of US mail. These types of units offer the greatest amount of cost and emission savings as carriers can deliver mail to multiple customers during a single stop. Increasing the use of centralized delivery for new and existing customers is one of the ways the Postal Service is contributing to "greener" neighborhoods across the country.

The MCA is responsible for cluster box structures located throughout the community, while the individual unit locks and keys are the responsibility of the USPS. If the full cluster box structure is damaged as a result of vandalism or an accident, the MCA is responsible for replacing the full unit and distrib-

uting new keys to all residents affected. However, if an individual unit's lock or key is damaged, the resident affected will need to contact USPS for repair or replacement.

### What are the Guidelines for Cluster Box Keys?

The Postal Service will provide residents with multiple keys to his or her postal-owned Cluster Box Unit (CBU). Currently, no key deposits are required, and customers may duplicate their keys at no expense to the Postal Service. The post office does not keep back-up/duplicate keys for individual mailboxes. Therefore, if the customer loses or damages all copies of their unit's keys, the Postal Service will have to install a new lock and issue a new set of keys at the customer's expense. If you lose your keys, break a key inside your lock, or have another key or lock related issue, here is a list of steps you will need to take to remedy the problem:

- Go in person to Central Park's primary USPS Office at 4710

Nome St.

- Ask to speak directly to the Postmaster on duty.
- Provide proof of address by showing ID and official mail.
- If necessary, fill out a Hold Mail request form.
- Mail lock repairs and key replacement can take up to 3-6 weeks to complete.

Here's a quick guide you can cut out and keep to quickly reference the best contacts for specific CBU related problems:

### MAILBOX TROUBLE?

WHO TO CALL QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE:

#### CONTACT THE MCA WHEN:

1. The entire cluster box unit (CBU) has been damaged or vandalized making mail delivery to the unit impossible.
2. Cluster box has been tagged with graffiti.
3. You have keys but can't locate the cluster box unit serving your address.

#### CONTACT USPS WHEN:

1. Need to replace lost or damaged keys.\*
2. Damaged lock mechanism resulting in the inability to access your individual mailbox.\*
3. Questions regarding general mail delivery or other USPS shipping services.

\* DEPENDING ON THE ISSUE, RESIDENTS MAY BE LIABLE FOR THE COST OF REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT MATERIALS.



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### 2022 Delegate Nominations

The MCA is currently accepting delegate nominations for 2022! All nominations received by **November 1, 2021**, will be included on the official ballot as part of the Annual Members' Meeting Mailing. District 1, District 4, and District 7 are currently open with no active delegate representation. Visit [bit.ly/delegate80238](http://bit.ly/delegate80238) for the official nomination form and more information!

Lawrence Uhling/Business Manager  
[luhling@mca80238.com](mailto:luhling@mca80238.com)

Master Community Association

# Front Porch

### PUBLISHERS/EDITORS:

Carol Roberts & Steve Larson

### PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Steve Larson, Christie Gosch

AD SALES: email [Carol@FrontPorchNE.com](mailto:Carol@FrontPorchNE.com) or call 303-526-1969

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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.

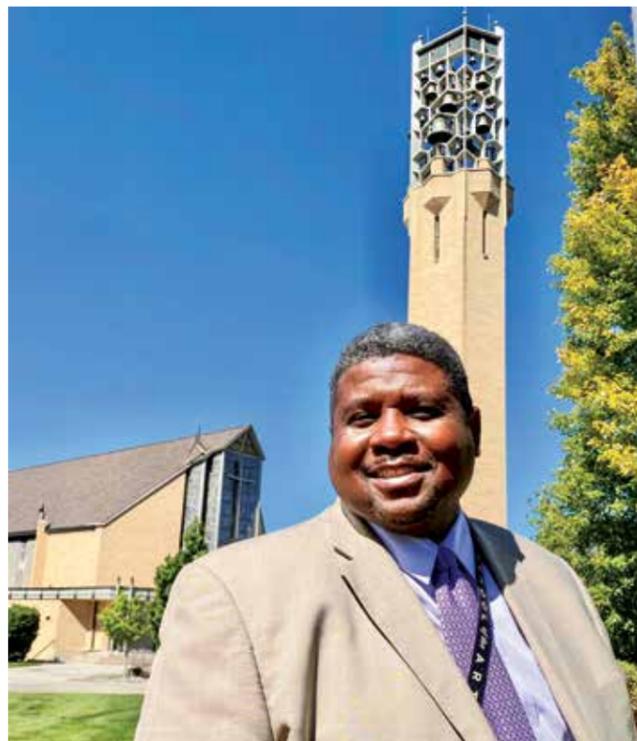
By Mary Jo Brooks

Thanks to the vision and persistence of leaders at Denver Public Schools and the Urban Land Conservancy, the redevelopment of the former Johnson and Wales complex in East Park Hill will uphold and broaden the historical mission of the campus, while ensuring that it becomes more diverse and inclusive.

The innovative land-use agreement between public and non-profit organizations began when Anthony McWright, principal of the Denver School of the Arts (DSA), heard the news that Johnson and Wales was going to close its Denver campus. He instantly saw a “gift-wrapped opportunity” to help him realize his dream of expanding DSA so that any student who wanted to pursue an arts education could do so. After many meetings with DPS officials, he approached the Urban Land Conservancy to help figure out how to make it work financially. The two entities eventually brought in additional partners that specialized in housing, education, and entrepreneurship, including the Denver Housing Authority, Archway Communities, St. Elizabeth’s School, and the Kitchen Network. Remarkably, these public and non-profit entities were able to quickly put together a purchase proposal that won out over commercial developers.

That kind of collaboration was also a dream come true for Erin Clark, vice president of master site development at the Urban Land Conservancy. She has spent her 20-year career working to create accessible and affordable communities—and she didn’t want to see the Johnson and Wales campus get bulldozed to make way for more high-end condominiums. “We want to preserve affordable real estate in perpetuity. That’s core to our mission,” Clark says.

The Park Hill campus redevelopment is also very personal for Clark. She grew up at 18th and Newport and watched her mother get her law



Front Porch photos by Steve Larson

# Leaders Behind the J&W Transformation

(Left) The Urban Land Conservancy’s Erin Clark sits on a bench at the amphitheater where she used to play as a child. (Right) Anthony McWright, principal of the Denver School of the Arts, initiated the innovative partnership that is transforming the former Johnson and Wales campus.

degree on that campus, which at the time housed the University of Denver Law School and the Colorado Women’s College. After attending Smiley Middle School and East High School, Clark received her undergraduate degree at Brown University, a master’s degree in urban planning from the University of Southern California, and a law degree from the University of Wisconsin.

Now, three years after joining the Urban Land Conservancy in Denver, Clark says she’s immensely proud to be involved in preserving the beautiful 112-year old Park Hill campus—and expanding its mission by making it accessible to more people. “This has always been a place for housing and education, but we’re expanding these services to different users,” says Clark. She points out that with an expanded DSA and St Elizabeth’s School, there will be K-12 education instead of higher education.

Instead of college students occupying dorms, there will be affordable housing for seniors and families. And instead of a 4-year culinary college, the Kitchen Network will train chefs and food truck vendors who couldn’t afford a college degree. “It’s not a jarring change, but it’s an important change that is expanding access to groups that haven’t been able to be on the campus in the past.”

For McWright, the campus redevelopment will allow DSA to potentially double in size with more diversity, equity, and inclusion. He knows personally the power that arts education can have. He grew up in a small rural town in Mississippi in a family of modest means. “I found my way through the trombone, which paved the way for me to go to college. If I hadn’t picked up that trombone, I don’t know where I’d be today.” He wants to ensure that more students of color feel welcomed at the school.

“We’ve done surveys which show that most black and brown families aren’t aware of what we offer,” says McWright. “We’re trying to remedy that by doing more outreach, going out to elementary schools to tell students what we have.”

McWright is hoping the expansion of DSA might also allow the school to expand its programming—perhaps even adding classes in culinary arts, broadcast journalism, and podcasting. He has been holding meetings with staff and district officials to ensure that DSA’s four newly-acquired buildings will be renovated in such a way that they will meet the needs of the school well into the future.

One of the things that excites both Clark and McWright is the potential for so many community partners to utilize the campus spaces in new ways. Clark says she and her colleagues are professional gap-fillers. “We’re trying to do things that aren’t being done—or we try to

do them in new ways. And it’s all about leveraging partnerships.”

McWright notes the gorgeous outdoor amphitheater and wonders about creating a Shakespeare in the Park experience, or advancing existing partnerships with the Denver Center for Performing Arts, the Colorado Symphony, and many other arts groups. “This is going to be a great opportunity for the entire metro area,” says McWright. “We are eager to talk to community leaders to figure out how can we line up all these different entities so that it doesn’t take away from one area but enhances us overall?”

Over the coming months, the Urban Land Conservancy will hold public meetings to gather input from community members about what amenities they would like to see on the campus. One of the first orders of business? Generating ideas for a new name for the campus.

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Project Worthmore, located at 1666 Elmira St. in northwest Aurora, is collecting essential items to give to newly arriving families from Afghanistan. Shown here is a recent delivery of baby items donated by employees at St. Joseph's hospital.

# Project Worthmore: Welcoming Refugees as they Start a New Life

By Carol Roberts

More than 10 years ago Frank and Carolyn Anello became interested in working with refugees when they helped a family in their church. They saw the impact on quality of life when new refugee families were matched with local people who checked on them to be sure food and other essential needs

were met and showed them how to navigate everyday life such as riding the bus, enrolling kids in school, and opening a checking account. The Anellos personally did those things—and they organized teams to give even more refugees a warm welcome.

Fast forward 10 years and Frank and Carolyn's non-profit organization, Project Worthmore, has a large facility in northwest Aurora

with six programs that serve refugees and immigrants from 26 countries. They have been so successful helping new lives flourish that people who were new arrivals a few years ago are now employed at Project Worthmore helping today's new arrivals. "We believe in hiring people with lived experience...someone who's been through the system, came here as a refugee, understands the ins and

outs, the difficulties, and is on the other side of the story," says Frank Anello.

Project Worthmore's programs include navigators from similar

backgrounds who help newcomers through the hurdles of life in a new culture, social connections with local people, food, a dental clinic and English classes.

### Afghan Refugees Are Arriving

With Afghan refugees starting to arrive, Project Worthmore's years of experience and range of programs offer the structure needed to provide a warm welcome for these newcomers. But this group of refugees is facing more challenges than the 1,800+ Afghan refugees who resettled in Colorado about five years ago. Those refugees already had Special Immigrant Visas that let them access government benefits to help them get started. "They came with a skill set, they had English skills—so transitioning here five years ago was difficult, but it wasn't as difficult as now. We had a couple staff members back then from Afghanistan that were community navigators for us after only being here like six months."

The upcoming arrivals are in "humanitarian parolee" status. They are here legally but until their visas get processed, they don't qualify for government benefits, "So a lot of us are scrambling to try and figure out how to financially support these families as they arrive," says Anello. "We are putting together a plan to where this existing Afghan community will be like the welcoming community for this new group of people. We have served thousands of individuals on an annual basis. My worry about this group is they have been in transition for a while. I really look forward to getting them here and trying to get them settled and comfortable."

Resettlement agencies and other

organizations have been working together closely for years, making sure that newly arrived individuals are welcomed and taken care of, says Anello.

### What You Can Do

"All of these neighboring communities that sit right around Project Worthmore (Central Park, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair) can play such an influential part in welcoming people by walking across the street to open up their homes, open up their wallets, open up their hearts to welcome these people who just want to start a new life."

Contributions for Project Worthmore's welcome packages can be dropped off at Project Worthmore. Items needed include hand, laundry and dish soaps, personal hygiene items (shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant), cooking oil, large bags of rice, beans and pasta, peanut butter, canned fish (not meats), a booklet of RTD passes, or a rice cooker. A donation of \$25 provides a family one month of access to the food share program, \$50 provides English and citizenship classes for a month, \$1,000 provides a year of comprehensive services for a refugee family.

Visit [ProjectWorthmore.org](http://ProjectWorthmore.org) or call 720-460-1393 to sign up for their newsletter, donate, or see how you can help.



Project Worthmore offers English classes through Emily Griffith. Other programs include a dental clinic set up by Carolyn Anello, a food share program, and community navigators.

Front Porch photos by Christie Gosch

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# NHS Students Walk Out and Speak Out about Sexual Harassment



Northfield High School student leaders strongly believed it was important for them to organize a rally against sexual harassment on Sept. 20 when other DPS High schools were also protesting. They planned it during an extended lunch break so students who so chose could participate safely and without missing class.



Front Porch photos by Steve Larson



Maluhola Maka, junior

By Carol Roberts

Student leaders at Northfield High School who organized the Sept. 20 rally against sexual harassment say they had concerns even before School Board Member Tay Anderson was censured by his fellow board members for comments “unbecoming” a board director. Maluhola Maka, junior: “I have 11 nieces and

nephews to go home to—I tolerate no kind of sexualization or sexual violence towards children for that reason.” Tierra Marsha, senior: “I know other people that have been through this. So since I have this opportunity, I just took it right off the table, and I acted on it.” Sabrina Lahlali, junior: “We didn’t organize this to point a finger at an individual, we’re kind of trying to point a finger at the whole issue in itself and say that this is wrong.” But the three agreed Anderson served as the catalyst.

When these student leaders learned on



Friday, Sept. 17 that schools throughout the district were planning protests on the 20th, they devoted much of that day, as well as the weekend, to planning the Northfield event in a way that would be safe and would not cause students to miss class. An extended lunch period on Monday achieved that goal. Maka, who holds the position of student wellness chair, says she thinks organizing the rally was part of her job as an advocate for student wellness. “We are looking at the big picture to make the statement that we will not tolerate any kind of sexual harassment within this school.”

On the 20th, hundreds of students chose to follow these rally leaders around the block, some waving signs. As



Sabrina Lahlali, junior

they returned to the quad, many broke off for lunch, but a good-sized group gathered around the speakers and applauded their message. The majority were women—with a few young men sprinkled in. One young woman stood with five or six young men, some of whom she had invited to join her. She referred to them as “the people that I have known for kind of a while now. I’ve grown close with them and never felt threatened around them. It’s kind of just feeling super comfortable with them.”



Tierra Marsha, senior

Here’s what these thoughtful young men had to say: “A lot of people have been talking about it—and when Tay Anderson came up, I saw it everywhere. Then I heard about the walkout and I was like, all right, it’s an actual problem—we need to fix it. So just coming out here and supporting them really felt like it meant something.” A second young man’s thoughts: “I just wanted to walk over to see what’s happening. When I heard, I wanted to contribute and help out.” And one more: “I guess I came because it genuinely is not okay. And I do think that I feel very motivated to be here. And I do think that it is something bigger than everybody here.”



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Left: Breast Cancer Survivor, Rachel Baumel, rearranges her Sleep Again Pillows to show how the system can be reconfigured for different patients. The system includes two oversized wedge pillows, two body pillows, and a head pillow.



Right: Business Partners, Kate Devlin (left) and Rachel Baumel, model the Sleep Again Pillow's most common configuration with one wedge behind the head and the other under the knees.



Front Porch photos by Christie Coach

By Tracy Wolfer Osborne

In 2017, Rachel Baumel was desperate for sleep. She had been through the ringier. First, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Then she underwent a double-mastectomy, two reconstruction surgeries, and the removal of her right ovary. “You can’t recover if you can’t sleep,” she says. “After a mastectomy, you’re forced to sleep on your back and on an incline. I just couldn’t get comfortable.” A natural problem-solver and self-described serial-entrepreneur, Rachel got to work creating her own pillow system. “I bought all these pillows off Amazon and started configuring them in different ways.” Soon, Baumel had created an adjustable five-pillow system and what she called her “life raft,” and a new business—The Sleep Again Pillow System—was born.

“There was a lot of trial and error,” says Kate Devlin, Baumel’s business partner who previously did marketing for Boppy, a company that sells baby pillows. “I was a little more cautious about starting a business,” says Devlin. “But this is how Rachel operates. She’s always like, ‘We can figure this out.’ She talks to a hundred people a day, and it was through one of those connections—the my-next-door-neighbor’s-mother’s-friend-has-a-woman-who-knows-someone—kind of connection that we ultimately found a consultant who helps small businesses like ours. Before that we spent months driving the system to places, and we’d find someone here and there who had a small manufacturing facility, but then we’d get a quote and be like,

‘Oh. That won’t work.’ One guy quoted us \$400 just for the covers for one pillow set. We also thought we’d ship them ourselves, but you start thinking about the logistics of putting these giant pillows in your car and you quickly figure out, ‘This isn’t our best option.’ We were definitely worried in the beginning,” Devlin says. “It was stressful because we weren’t selling anything.”

Fast forward a few months and the partners have a sourcing consultant, a manufacturer, a buyer’s agent, and a freight forwarder. “We’re up and running now,” says Devlin. “We’re selling about a pillow a day and it never gets old. We celebrate every sale.”

“This business is pure passion,” says Baumel. “Every time I connect someone with a pillow, I feel pure joy and happiness.” People email and say, “I haven’t been able to sleep in weeks. I can’t thank you enough.”

## What’s New in Breast Cancer Research and Treatment

Jennifer Diamond M.D., who works in

the CU Cancer Center, says new and exciting advancements are happening in the field of breast-cancer treatment.

“We’re becoming increasingly sophisticated at being able to tailor a treatment for individuals and their tumor’s characteristics. We’ve learned so much about the biology of

*“We’re becoming increasingly sophisticated at being able to tailor a treatment for individuals and their tumor’s characteristics. In all types of breast cancers, we’ve been able to escalate therapy for patients who are at higher risk of recurrence and de-escalate therapy for patients with a lower risk of recurrence.”*

Dr. Jennifer Diamond, CU Cancer Center

different breast cancers, and that’s allowed us to develop targeted treatments rather than using traditional chemotherapy to prevent recurrence. In all types of breast cancers, we’ve been able to escalate therapy for patients who are at higher risk of recurrence and de-escalate therapy for patients with a lower risk of recurrence. For example, for women who are diagnosed with the most common kind of breast cancer, which is hormone receptor-positive, we’re able to omit chemotherapy and treat them with a pill that can lower estrogen or block estrogen-receptors. We can spare them from chemotherapy, while giving them treatment that is better-tolerated and really effective at preventing recurrence.

“For triple negative breast cancer, which is a more aggressive breast-cancer subtype, we now have approvals for immunother-

apy drugs in early and late-stage breast cancer and that means that we can use these treatments to help your own body’s immune system prevent recurrence. That’s a big breakthrough.

“In Her2 positive breast cancer, which is a third subtype of breast cancer, we’ve seen the approval of multiple new Her2-targeted drugs that can prevent recurrence and extend survival in women who are living with metastatic breast cancer.

“Across the board, in early-onset and late-stage cancer there have been so many advances. We’re lucky with cancer screening and breast-cancer awareness that the vast majority of patients are diagnosed at an early stage.”

Dr. Traci Lyons, who works at CU School of Medicine, says, “The Young Women’s Breast Cancer Transitional Program has recently identified specific molecules that are driving aggressiveness of cancers in young women, and we are working toward novel therapies that target those molecules. While the results are still preliminary, we expect the research will inform novel clinical trials in the near future. We are also working toward identifying treatments that will be specifically effective in patients living with Stage IV or metastatic breast cancer.”

For more information on pillows that help you sleep, visit <https://sleepagain-pillows.com/>. For more information on breast cancer visit <https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/colorado-cancer-center>.



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# Letters to the Editor

## Protect Local Voices—Vote Yes on 302

As a former Director of Conservation Outreach for World Wildlife Fund and avid outdoorsman, I understand the ecological value of open space. However, following the Park Hill Golf Course debate, I'm shocked to see pseudo environmentalism being used as a shield to silence the voice of an already marginalized and underrepresented community.

Efforts that allow Denver residents—many of whom have never visited the golf course and do actually have a grocery store in their neighborhood—to silence the voice of an underserved community is voter suppression.

The community immediately surrounding the former Park Hill Golf Course doesn't want a 155-acre park. They want a 60-acre park with mature trees and playground equipment. They need a grocery store, affordable homes and apartments, commercial space reserved for local business, and access to public transportation to get to work and get their kids to school.

301 is backed by a wealthy few who are taking decisions about the future of the former golf course away from Northeast Park Hill's residents by letting the entire city decide. They frame the discussion around climate change, fully knowing that a golf course is an environmental sink of sprinkler systems, law mowers and fertilizer. Watering more than a hundred acres of grass doesn't

help with climate change, rather it pushes desperately needed affordable housing further away from transit and economic centers. \*Important fact: the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions is transportation.

Now that the City has begun a planning process and is listening to the neighbors living around the former golf course, the wealthy few are filing lawsuits, contorting facts, misrepresenting their intentions, and diluting the voices and votes of the underserved community that lives in the area.

I live in Central Park, and I don't want someone from South Park Hill or Cherry Creek telling me what we need. Would you?

Don't be fooled—301 isn't a choice between open space and development. It's a choice for equity, living our progressive values, and preserving a local community's right to self-determination.

I'm for local choices and voices. I'm voting yes on 302 and no on 301!

*Matt Wagner lives in Central Park, has a master's degree in sustainable development from DU's Sturm College of Law, and is the former director of conservation outreach for World Wildlife Fund, director of conservation outreach for World Wildlife Fund.*

\*<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

## Vote Yes on 301 for Parks and Open Space

I am writing regarding the detailed article by Tracy Wolfer-Osborne "Ballot Will Determine Fate of Park Hill Golf Course" published in your September edition.

One important fact that Ms. Wolfer-Osborne did not include is that Empower Northeast Denver ("Empower") is actually an alter ego of real estate developer Westside Investment Partners, Inc. ("Westside"). Westside owns the Park Hill Golf Course land and is behind Initiated Ordinance 302 referred to in her article as "the Empower NE Denver initiative."

Here are the facts from public records: (1) Westside formed Empower

as a Colorado non-profit corporation on June 9, 2021 soon after it began the process for Election Division approval for Initiated Ordinance 302 to be placed on the November 2 ballot; (2) Empower's principal office and registered agent are located at Westside's corporate offices in Glendale; and (3) as of the filing of its August campaign finance report for Initiated Ordinance 302, all \$280,305 of the cash and in kind financial contributions reported for Initiated Ordinance 302 were provided by Westside and its subsidiary ACM Park Hill JV VII LLC.

Georgia Garnsey

## Tween Drugs

I wanted to thank the Front Porch and Alex's family for sharing and publishing this straightforward, transparent story about tween and teen drug use in our neighborhood.

Fear, shame, a desire for privacy, and/or sheer disbelief ensures that this is a topic widely discussed in whispers—under the guise of "concerned for a friend," but rarely with honesty and transparency about our own children.

This story is a truth. A hard truth that has impacted so many of our children personally. More importantly, this story is a necessary discussion, if we, as parents, are ever going to win the battle against drugs. How can we expect our children to out run this horrendous reality if we, as adults, cannot face it?

Illicit drugs are both prevalent in our community AND killing our children.

Savvy companies do not provide delivery services unless there is money to be made.

Initially the stories may vary; though eventually, they share a similar trajectory.

The kids have parents or guardians that are involved in their lives. The kids have fabulous teachers and coaches. The kids stay engaged in their school community. The kids have wonderful friends. The kids work hard and oftentimes, are leaders among their peers. The kids become victims.

Drug cartels have wildly successful marketing, recruitment, and distribution systems. Their success relies heavily on a cloak of shame, secrecy, and ignorance.

As parents, we cannot beat this system individually. Our only hope is coming together as a singular village, suspending judgment, honestly sharing and learning from each others' stories, supporting one another with resources, and keeping a vigilant watch TOGETHER.

Once again my heart is filled with gratitude for this article. It is long overdue. We have to shed our heavy cloaks and move forward together as a community.

Gratefully yours, Kathy Duda

# YES ON 302

PROTECT LOCAL CHOICES AND LOCAL VOICES



"I have seen the transformation of NE Park Hill from a thriving community to a community struggling from neglect and lack of investment. I'm voting yes on 302, because local communities know best what they need, and the future of the Park Hill Golf Course should be a local community decision. Let's invest in people not property."

Dr. Carol Watkins Ali,  
NE Park Hill Community Leader

Learn More: [yeson302denver.com](https://yeson302denver.com)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://frontporchne.com/article/ballot-will-determine-fate-of-park-hill-golf-course/>

## Vote November 2nd – ballots arriving soon!

# GREEN v CONCRETE

## YES ON 301

## NO ON 302

### PROTECT OUR PARKS AND OPEN SPACE FROM DEVELOPMENT

Paid for by **Yes for Parks and Open Space**, Harry Doby, Treasurer **YESOPENSOURCE.ORG**

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5280 Top Real Estate Producer



**F**or this explanation of the 2021 ballot measures, *Front Porch* called on an expert, Todd Engdahl, whose company, Capitol Editorial Services, is a research firm that provides services to lobbying firms and advocacy groups at the Colorado legislature. He's a former executive city editor of *The Denver Post*, he launched Denver-Post.com and was a co-founder of the website Education News Colorado.

### Denver voters have to slog through a long ballot

Voters in Denver this year are faced with 13 complicated ballot measures that concern improvements to the city's infrastructure, including a new arena; repeal of a controversial housing law; changing the date of city elections; homelessness and limits on the mayor's power, among other things. The list of measures also includes two battling proposals for the future of the Park Hill Golf Course.

Eight of the measures were placed on the ballot by the Denver City Council and are called Referred Questions. The five other measures got on the ballot by citizen petition and are called Initiated Ordinances. City officials said the ballot includes the largest number of citizen-initiated measures they can remember.

This article summarizes the measures in the order they appear on the ballot, beginning with the Referred Questions. The first five of those measures propose a \$450 million package of bonds to pay for a wide variety of city projects, including cultural facilities, homeless services, recreation facilities, transportation improvements and \$190 million in upgrades at the National Western Center, including a new arena to replace the 70-year-old Denver Coliseum. More than 80 projects would be paid for by the package.

Mayor Michael Hancock originally proposed a single bond measure. But some City Council members oppose the arena plan, so they broke the bond package into five measures so voters could pick and choose. The measures wouldn't raise property taxes because they would use existing bonding authority. The bond plans comes close on the heels of the \$937 million in bonds approved by voters in 2017, of which \$375 million remains to be spent.

## Denver Ballot Measures

### Referred Question 2A – Cultural facilities bonds

This measure proposes \$104 million in bonds to pay for repairs and improvements at the Denver Botanic Gardens, Bonfils Theater Complex, Denver Museum of Nature and Science and the Denver Zoo, plus preservation of the May Bonfils Stanton Theater on the Loretto Heights Campus. These bonds also would pay for new branch libraries in Globeville and Westwood, a youth center and accessibility improvements at various city facilities.

### Referred Question 2B – Shelter facilities

The \$38 million requested in this measure would be used to upgrade and expand the city's system for housing people experiencing homelessness, including purchase, conversion and/or construction of buildings.

### Referred Question 2C – Transportation

Improvements for bicyclists and pedestrians are the main focus of this \$63.3 million bond plan. Projects to be funded include expansion of the city's sidewalk network; renovation of existing bike lanes and expansion of such lanes; crosswalk, traffic signal and median projects; reconstruction of Morrison Road and pedestrian improvements downtown.

### Referred Question 2D – Parks

The \$54 million included in this proposal

would be used to develop two new parks and fund improvements and restoration at existing parks, including rebuilding the swimming pool at Mestizo-Curtis Park.

### Referred Question 2E – National Western

This is the big one, a proposed \$190 million issue to build a 10,000-seat multi-use arena at the National Western Complex and to renovate the 1909 amphitheater building. Some \$160 million would be used to build the arena, with \$50 million in additional costs covered by other sources. The arena is the largest single project in the whole package and has been strongly pushed by Hancock but was opposed by four council members. Some groups in the neighboring Globeville and Elyria-Swansea areas have opposed the arena. Beyond the National Western projects, other big-ticket items in the package are the theater renovation at Loretto Heights at \$30 million, the Westwood Branch Library construction at \$13.88 million and the Morrison Road reconstruction at \$13 million.

Here are the non-bond referred questions on the Denver ballot:

### Referred Question 2F – Housing laws

Passage of this measure would repeal a controversial law passed earlier this year.

Last February the City Council amended city law to allow up to five unrelated adults to live in one detached house, up from the previous limit of two. (There is no limit on the number of related people living together.) The law change also allowed greater density of residential care and group living facilities.

Council members and some city planners believe the change was necessary to provide more housing opportunities during a time when affordable housing is scarce.

But opponents, including many neighborhood organizations around the city, believe the ordinance will degrade neighborhood quality by increasing density and encouraging boarding-house living situations.

A group named Safe and Sound Denver organized a petition campaign and gathered enough signatures to force City Council to put 2F on the ballot. If it passes, city law will return to the previous limit of two unrelated people living in the same home.

### Referred Question 2G – Independent police monitor

In recent years City Council has tried to chip away at Denver's "strong mayor" government structure. A recently passed ballot measure gave the council confirmation power over certain mayoral appointees. This year the council is pushing 2G, which would eliminate the mayor's power to appoint the head of the Office of Independent Monitor. That's the office that oversees police disciplinary investigations. Passage of this measure would give that appointment power to the city's Citizen Oversight Board.

### Referred Question 2H – City elections

Regular Denver elections for mayor and council members currently are held on the first Tuesday in May in odd-numbered years. If necessary, runoff elections are held in June. This measure, being pushed by Clerk and Recorder Paul Lopez, would move the May election to the first Tuesday in April. He argues that would provide needed time to prepare for the June election, including for sending out and return of mail ballots.

### Initiated Ordinance 300 – Marijuana taxes and pandemic research

This measure would increase the city's special marijuana tax from 5.5 percent to 7 percent in order to generate \$7 million annually. That money would go to the CU Denver CityCenter to fund research on protective equipment, disinfection and on

public policy responses to pandemics. The CityCenter is a consulting arm of CU—and it says it has no connection with the ballot measure.

According to published reports, the backer is an out-of-state group named Guarding Against Pandemics that is partly funded by crypto-currency billionaire Sam Bankman-Fried. His brother, Gabe, is head of the organization and is a former congressional staffer.

### Initiated Ordinances 301 & 302 – City Park Golf Course

These are the dueling—and confusing—proposals for the future of the closed golf course at Colorado Blvd. and E. 35th Ave. They are part of the fight between neighborhood groups that want to preserve the course as a park or open space and other interests who want mixed-use development on the site, along with a park. It's become a legal and political issue because the course is covered by a conservation easement that protects it, so city council and/or voter involvement may be required.

A group named Yes for Parks and Open Space supports 301, which basically would preserve the course as open space. Another organization called Empower NE Denver supports 302, which would allow for development, along with a park.

A detailed article in September's edition of *Front Porch* sorts out the conflict – read it here—<https://frontporchne.com/article/ballot-will-determine-fate-of-park-hill-golf-course/>

Here are the potential outcomes:

- If 301 passes and 302 fails, development of the course couldn't happen without city-wide voter approval.
- If 301 fails and 302 passes, development of the property will be allowed if approved by City Council.
- In the event that both pass or both fail, development will be allowed if approved by council.

### Initiated Ordinance 303 – Homeless camping

Proposed by Garrett Flicker, chair of the Denver Republican Party, this measure would require stricter enforcement of Denver's camping ban, allow citizens to file formal complaints and even sue the city if it doesn't enforce the ban and would allow establishment of four authorized camping locations on public property. Homeless advocacy groups oppose the measure.

### Initiated Ordinance 304 – Sales taxes

Another Flicker proposal, this ordinance would cap Denver's combined sales and use tax rate at 4.5 percent, down from the 4.8 percent currently levied. It would also require the city to reduce existing taxes if voters approve new ones above the new cap. It's unclear whether that would infringe on voters' constitutional right to raise taxes.

**More information:** See the texts of all Denver ballot measures on this sample ballot – [https://www.denvergov.org/files/assets/public/elections/documents/sample-ballots/2021-coordinated-sample-ballot\\_combo.pdf](https://www.denvergov.org/files/assets/public/elections/documents/sample-ballots/2021-coordinated-sample-ballot_combo.pdf)

## State Ballot Measures

What's the difference between an amendment and a proposition?

For statewide ballot measures, constitutional changes are called amendments; changes to state law are called propositions. Constitutional changes require approval by 55 percent of voters, but propositions pass with a simple majority. Once something is in the constitution it takes another statewide vote to change or remove a provision. But

# '21 BALLOT



This rendering shows the National Western Complex that, when completed in 2024, will have almost twice the space as the existing site, with multiple educational spaces for

a new law approved by voters can later be amended by the legislature. Amendments and propositions proposed by voters are assigned numbers; ballot measures referred by the legislature are assigned letters.

### How Measures Get on the Ballot: Initiatives and Referenda

Initiatives are proposals made by advocacy groups that have gathered the required number of petition signatures. A measure placed on the ballot by two-thirds votes of both houses of the legislature is called a referendum.

### Voters face fewer state measures, but proposals are complicated

After wrestling with a mind-bending list of 11 state ballot measures on the 2020 ballot, voters get something of a break this year, with only three statewide measures.

But those measures are complicated, so voters will need to devote careful study to the proposals. Here's the lineup:

### Amendment 78 - Legislative spending authority

**What it would do** – This proposed constitutional amendment would require the state legislature to "appropriate"—directly approve spending—of certain funds that now are spent by state agencies

**Context and history** – Colorado lawmakers approve a state budget every year—the budget for 2021-22 is about \$34 billion. Some \$12 billion of that comes largely from state income and sales taxes.

But other funds—estimated to total at least \$24 billion—go directly to state agencies for spending. That money is referred to as "custodial funds," meaning that it's intended for specific uses and that state agencies are custodians for spending. One example is the money the state receives from lawsuit settlements, but custodial funds also include some federal money.

Spending of custodial funds hasn't been a controversial issue in the past, and large sums are spent annually by non-legislative entities like the State Transportation Commission, colleges and universities, the attorney general, and the governor.

But the massive flow of federal COVID-19 relief funding that began in 2020 raised some hackles among conservatives and some legislators because much of it went directly to the office of Gov. Jared Polis, which redistributed it.

The amendment is being pushed by the Committee for Spending Transparency, a campaign group connected to Colorado Rising Action, a conservative, small-government advocacy group. Michael Fields, executive director of Colorado Rising Action, is the initiative's sponsor and formerly was state director for Americans for Prosperity.

**How it would work** – Amendment 78 would require custodial funds be appropriated by the legislature after such money is deposited in a central account from which

## DENVER & STATE ISSUES PULLOUT SECTION



food, agricultural discovery and entertainment. The single biggest bond question is \$190 million to build a 10,000 seat multi-use arena at the National Western Complex.

the legislature would dole it out to the appropriate agencies or recipients. Funds that are earmarked for particular uses would remain restricted—it's just that the legislature would make the decisions, not a state agency. The legislature would have to hold public hearings on uses of custodial funds.

Management of the current state budget is a complicated, year-around business now. It involves the staff of the governor's Office of State Planning and Budget (OSP), professional analysts who work for the legislative Joint Budget Committee (JBC), and accountants who work for the state controller, not to mention the scores of budget officers and accountants in individual state agencies.

Work on the each year's budget starts with OSPB and agencies early in the summer, and the JBC starts work in November on a budget plan that doesn't get approved by the full legislature until March or April—just in time for the executive branch to start work on the proposed budget for the next fiscal year.

No one knows what sort of systems and procedures would have to be set up to enable lawmakers to review all the additional money. But a legislative staff review estimates it could cost at least \$1 million a year.

### Proposition 119 – Academic enrichment

**What it would do** – This proposal would create a state Colorado Learning Authority to administer a scholarship program students could use for out-of-school learning and enrichment activities. It would be funded mostly by an increase in marijuana taxes.

**Context and history** – Education reform and business groups long have argued that many students, especially minorities and lower income children, need tutoring and academic other enrichment programs to gain skills needed to succeed in school and to place them on an equal footing with students from wealthier families that can afford to pay for enrichment.

Colorado schools are considered underfunded as it is, so there hasn't been money in the regular state budget for a program like this. So backers of the idea turned to proposing an increase in marijuana taxes.

In addition, interest in out-of-school learning has increased because most smaller Colorado districts have moved to four-day weeks and because school disruptions

caused by the pandemic have led to student learning loss.

Despite the feel-good aspects of the plan, traditional education interest groups are skeptical about the proposal because the program would operate independently of other state agencies, because it would tap into some existing education funds in addition to the marijuana revenues and because public money would go to private providers.

And some policymakers and marijuana industry leaders fear higher taxes on legal sales would spark growth in illegal, black market marijuana, affecting sales on legal marijuana.

**How it would work** – If passed the measure would launch a phased sales tax increase on retail marijuana and marijuana products from the current 15 percent rate to 18 percent in 2022, 19 percent in 2023 and 20 percent in 2024 and after.

The higher taxes would raise an estimated \$87.1 million in its first full year of operation, 2022-23. In that year the program also would tap \$22 million in state lands revenues that currently go to public schools.

The learning authority would operate independently of the Department of Education and would oversee creation of the program, which is intended to provide needs-based scholarships that students could use to pay for out-of-school programs at a variety of approved providers.

### Proposition 120 - Property tax assessment rates

**What it would do** – The measure would lower property tax assessment rates for some types of property.

**Context and history** – Property taxes for Colorado homes, apartment buildings and other real estate are not calculated based on a property's market value but rather on a percentage of market value, called the assessment rate. Actual tax bills are based on what are called mill levies, which are calculated against the assessed value.

The original ballot measure, pushed by conservative operative Michael Fields and deep-pocketed allies (see Amendment 78 above), originally proposed to cut the residential property tax assessment rate from 7.15 percent to 6.5 percent and the non-residential property tax assessment rate from 29 percent to 26.4 percent.

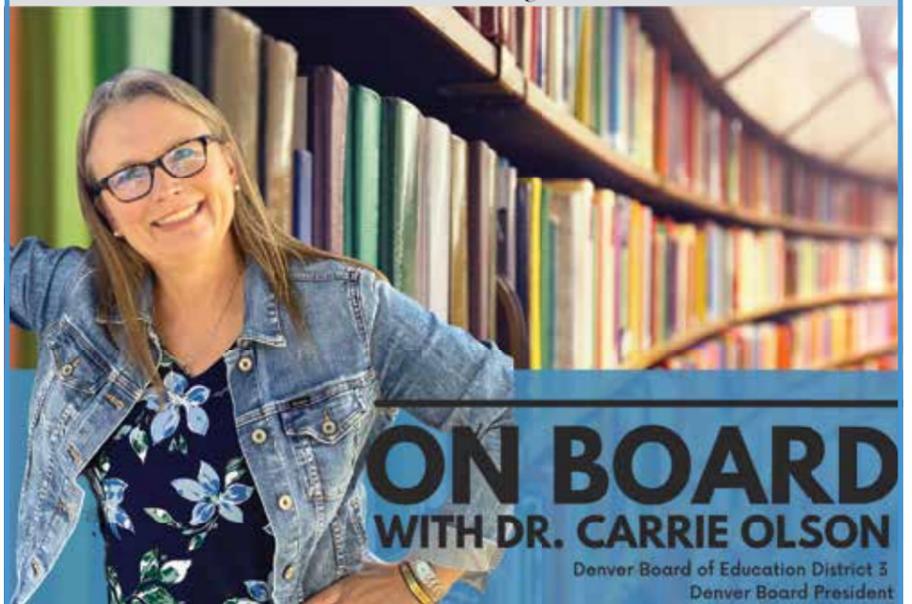
But the 2020 legislative session cut Fields & Co. off at the pass when it passed SB 21-293, which made several complicated changes in assessment rates, including temporary reductions in some rates.

**How it would work** – The net effect of that bill means that Proposition 120, if passed, would apply only to multifamily housing properties (a 6.5 percent assessment rate), and to lodging properties (reduced to 26.4 percent).

Regardless of whether this proposition passes or not, the whole issue is expected to land in court.

**More information:** Voters are mailed an official state ballot measure guide, nicknamed the Blue Book, which contains texts of and information about each of the measures on the statewide ballot. If you didn't receive one or lost it in that pile of junk mail on the kitchen counter, you can read the online version here - [https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/images/2021\\_blue\\_book\\_english.pdf](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/images/2021_blue_book_english.pdf)

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## Honoring Denver Public Schools' Place in a Family's History

**Introduce yourself to our superintendent.** I joined Denver Public Schools (DPS) superintendent, Alex Marrero, in visiting a dozen schools to kick off the new school year in August. At each school, I watched our superintendent make meaningful connections, comforting a nervous elementary student at one school and dancing with a jubilant group of high school students at another. I encourage you to reach out to Dr. Marrero through one of his planned town halls, which will be posted online at [www.dpsk12.org](http://www.dpsk12.org). He shares my genuine interest in hearing from the community and engaging all of us in the vital work of educating Denver's children.

**Celebrating a school designed by and for students.** This year brings with it the opening of a reunified West campus, one of DPS' oldest schools and grandest buildings, which dates back to 1924. The West community has long advocated for the return of West High School. At the forefront were student voices—they were the driving force behind a unified school designed by and for students. While there were bumps in the road to implementation, I believe that how the community came together to support our students' vision is a model for our entire district.

West's mission to dismantle systemic racism by honoring culture and language and cultivating an inclusive school environment is rooted in its history, which is now memorialized by the recently unveiled 1969 West High Blow Out Commemorative Monument. This monument pays tribute to a student walkout that happened in March 1969 when students marched out of West High School to demand better educational opportunities, and walkouts occurred throughout the city.

As a school that leads in social justice and equity, West is a great example of what I mean when I talk about making sure that equity is more than just a word on the wall.

**Honoring generational school pride.** Many students at West are the second or third generation in their families to attend. The same is true of Morey Middle School, which is celebrating 100 years of serving the Denver community this year, a milestone that was commemorated in September. When I think about our schools as having a place in a family's history, not just in the history of our district or city, it refocuses me on the importance of pursuing a DPS vision that reflects the needs and aspirations of students and the wishes of each of our unique communities.

Dr. Carrie Olson is a teacher, adjunct professor, human rights and Holocaust educator, and president of the DPS Board of Education. In November 2017, she was elected as the first DPS career classroom teacher to serve on the DPS school board. **Scan the QR code to sign up to receive her newsletter.**



SCAN ME



# HOUSE CLEANING

Many Central Park & Park Hill References

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20 Years Experience - Paulina Leon 720-628-6690

Front Porch – NE Denver

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

## NE DENVER/NW AURORA EVENTS

**Every Sunday thru 10/10—Central Park Farmers' Market.** Colorado-grown produce, baked goods, meats, and more at The Green (29th Ave & Roslyn) 9am–1pm. [mca80238.com](http://mca80238.com)

**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](http://cityparkfarmersmarket.com)

**Saturdays—Bluff Lake Welcome Booth & Family Adventure Day.** Activities for all ages. Later end-time, fire pit, and s'mores on select weeks. 11255 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. [blufflake.org](http://blufflake.org)

**10/1 thru 10/10—11th Annual Community Food Drive.** NPRE virtual/online donation at [foodbankrockies.org](http://foodbankrockies.org)

**10/2 Saturday—5th Annual Make-A-Wish® Colorado Walk For Wishes.** Family-friendly event with games, activities and prizes. The Great Lawn, 101 Yosemite St. [walkforwishesco.org](http://walkforwishesco.org)

**10/2 Saturday—Best Pets 15th Annual Adopt-a-thon** Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St., Aurora. 11am–3pm. [bestpetscolorado.com](http://bestpetscolorado.com)

**10/5 and 10/12—Hispanic Heritage Month Events.** 4:30–5:30pm. All ages. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. Registration required at [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**10/12 Tuesday—In-person Memory Cafe.** Music therapy for older adults. 1:30–3pm. Schlessman Family Library, 100 Poplar St. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**10/16 Saturday—Bluff Lake Guided Walk.** 8–10am. Open your senses and engage with nature in a deeper way. 11255 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. [blufflake.org](http://blufflake.org)

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

# Oct. & Early Nov. Events

**10/23 Saturday—Drug Take Back.** 10am–2pm. 4 locations: District 5 Police station, 4685 N Peoria St; King Soopers at 2810 N Quebec St; 10406 E MLK Jr Blvd; and 18605 E Green Valley Ranch Blvd.

**10/23 to 10/24—8th Annual Park Hill Artists Open Studio Tour.** Featuring the original art work of over 20 local artists. 10am–5pm. Free map at The Art Garage, 6100 E. 23rd Ave. [artgaragedenver.com](http://artgaragedenver.com)

## SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS

**10/1 to 10/3—Pumpkin Harvest Festival.** General admission: \$8–\$16. Fri, 5–8pm; Sat, 9am–8pm; Sun, 9am–5pm. 715 S. Forest St. [fourmilepark.org](http://fourmilepark.org)

**10/7 Thursday—Architecture of a Haunted House.** Virtual event with driving tour map. Tickets are \$10. 7–8pm. [historicdenver.org](http://historicdenver.org)

**10/8 to 10/10—Pumpkin Festival at Chatfield Farms.** Must purchase tickets online at [botanicgardens.org](http://botanicgardens.org)

**10/14 to 10/30—Victorian Horrors 2021.** Thurs–Sat, 6–9pm, timed entries, \$20. 1340 Pennsylvania St. [mollybrown.org](http://mollybrown.org)

**10/14-16 & 10/28-30—Ghosts in The Gardens Tour.** After hours haunting stories. 1007 York St. [botanicgardens.org](http://botanicgardens.org)

**10/19 to 10/24—Glow at The Gardens.** Luminous, nighttime celebration of America's favorite gourd. 1007 York St. [botanicgardens.org](http://botanicgardens.org)

**10/23 Saturday—Colorado Railroad Museum's Harvest Haunt.** Rides/activities. 9am–5pm. [coloradorailroadmuseum.org](http://coloradorailroadmuseum.org)

**10/28 Thursday—4th Annual Drive Thru Harvest Fest Trunk or Treat.** Benefiting Special Olympics CO. Ball Arena - Tundra Lot, 1198 Chopper Cir. [specialolympicsco.org/event/trunkortreat/](http://specialolympicsco.org/event/trunkortreat/)

**10/30 Saturday—Halloween Spooktacular.** This ghastly good time is a family-favorite concert featuring music from films, television, and more! 1400 Curtis St. [coloradosymphony.org](http://coloradosymphony.org)

**10/30 Saturday—Rocky Mountain Pro Wrestling Shocktober 2021.** Tickets \$10–20. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St., Aurora. [rmpwrestling.com](http://rmpwrestling.com)

**10/30 Saturday—Coloween 2021.** A frightfully fantastic and fun evening. 8pm–2am. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St., Aurora. Tickets at [coloween.com](http://coloween.com)

**10/31 Sunday—District 5 Halloween Party.** 3–6pm. For more details, email officer Jenkins at [kiarra.jenkins@denvergov.org](mailto:kiarra.jenkins@denvergov.org)

## METRO EVENTS

**10/1 Friday—First Friday Art Walks.** Art District on Santa. 5:30–9:30pm. [denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts](http://denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts)

**10/2 Saturday—A Spectrum of Rising Artists.** Join Stratus Chamber Orchestra to experience a spectrum of works and colorful light projection. Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E Alameda Ave. [augustanaarts.org](http://augustanaarts.org)

**10/2 & 10/3—Aurora Singers – Let's Go to the Movies!** Musical revue tribute to the great songs of Hollywood. Sat at 7pm, Sun at 2pm. 12310 E Parkview Dr., Aurora. [aurorasingers.org](http://aurorasingers.org)

**10/2 Saturday—The 35th Annual Carousel Ball.** Children's Diabetes Foundation fundraiser: REO Speedwagon, black tie dinner, silent & live auctions. Hyatt Regency Denver, 650 15th St. [childrensdiabetesfoundation.org](http://childrensdiabetesfoundation.org)

**10/2 to 10/3—8th Annual Chessman Park Art Fest.** Art, entertainment, food & drinks. 9am–5pm. 1599 E. 8th Ave. [dashevents.com](http://dashevents.com)

**10/4 Monday—Active Minds presents: The Nobel Prize.** Trace the

history of the Nobel Prize. 2–4pm. Free RSVP required (limited seating): 303-751-5150, 1950 S Dayton St. [activeminds.com](http://activeminds.com)

**10/8 Friday—Denver Philharmonic Orchestra Free Concert.** All ages, 7–9pm. The Pavilion at Cheesman Park, 1900 E. 11th Ave. [denverphilharmonic.org](http://denverphilharmonic.org)

**10/10 Sunday—Walk to Defeat ALS.** Join the movement in defeating. 1701 Mile High Stadium Cir. [web.alsa.org/denverwalk](http://web.alsa.org/denverwalk)

**10/10 Sunday—Music in the Galleries: The Patterson/Sutton Duo.** 1–3pm, included with admission. 1250 Bannock St. [clyffordstillmuseum.org](http://clyffordstillmuseum.org)

**10/11 Monday—Bold Women. Change History. Gitanjali Rao.** At age 15, Gitanjali was named TIME Magazine's first-ever "Kid of the Year." 7pm. 1200 North Broadway. [historycolorado.org](http://historycolorado.org)

**10/16 thru 10/17—Run for DPS in the 15th Annual Colfax Marathon.** Colfax course distances include the Marathon, Marathon Relay, Half Marathon, Urban 10 Miler, and a 5K. More info at: [dpsfoundation.org](http://dpsfoundation.org)

**Through 10/17—Doors Open Denver.** Self guided or expert guided tours of Denver's unique spaces. List of sites at [denverarchitecture.org](http://denverarchitecture.org)

**10/21 Thursday—The Women's Foundation of Colorado's Annual Luncheon.** In person or virtual. Colorado Convention Center. [wfc.org/connect/annual-luncheon](http://wfc.org/connect/annual-luncheon)

**10/28 Thursday—Active Minds presents: Salem Witches.** Seek to understand this astounding moment in our country's early history. 10am–noon. Free, RSVP required: 303-693-0200. 14555 E Hampden Ave., Aurora. [activeminds.com](http://activeminds.com)

## KIDS AND FAMILIES

**Tuesdays & Thursdays—Outdoor Storytime at Sam Gary Library.** 10:30–11am. Birth–Pre K. Bring a blanket to sit on, weather permitting. 2961 Roslyn St. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**Saturdays—Spanish Storytime at Tattered Cover Kids.** 5pm. Stanley

Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St., Aurora. [stanley-marketplace.com](http://stanley-marketplace.com)

**Oct 6 and Oct 13—Outdoor Storytime at Sunset Park.** 10–10:30am. Birth–Pre K. Bring a blanket to sit on, weather permitting. E. 2nd Ave Pkwy. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**10/6 Wednesday—Mornings at the Museum.** Ages 3–6, 10:30–11am. Aurora History Museum, 15051 East Alameda Pkwy. [auroragov.org](http://auroragov.org)

**10/13 Wednesday—Helping Kids Thrive.** Practical tools, tips, and tricks to help kids of all ages grow in positive ways. Virtual event: [www.eventbrite.com/e/helping-kids-thrive-2021-parent-conference-and-wellness-fair-tickets-169145904955](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/helping-kids-thrive-2021-parent-conference-and-wellness-fair-tickets-169145904955)

## MUSEUMS, ETC.

**American Museum of Western Art.** Advanced tickets required, admission is \$5. 1727 Tremont Pl. [anschultzcollection.org](http://anschultzcollection.org)

**Aurora History Museum.** Advanced reservation is required, admission is free. 15051 East Alameda Pkwy. [auroragov.org](http://auroragov.org)

**The Byers–Evans House Museum.** Timed tickets required. History Colorado members are free. 1310 Bannock St. Tickets at [historycolorado.org](http://historycolorado.org)

**The Children's Museum.** Wed–Sun, by reservation only at [mychildsmuseum.org](http://mychildsmuseum.org)

**Clyfford Still Museum.** SCFD Free Day Tuesday, Oct. 12. Reserve tickets in advance. 1250 Bannock St. [clyffordstillmuseum.org](http://clyffordstillmuseum.org)

**Denver Art Museum.** SCFD Free Days Oct. 24 and Nov. 6. Youth 18 & under always free. 100 W 14th Ave. Pkwy. [denverartmuseum.org](http://denverartmuseum.org)

**Denver Botanic Gardens.** Advanced tickets and member reservations required. 1007 York St. [botanicgardens.org](http://botanicgardens.org)

**Denver Firefighters Museum.** Tues–Sat, 10am–4pm. 1326 Tremont Pl. [denverfirefightersmuseum.org](http://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](http://dmns.org)

**The Forney Museum of Transportation.** Mon, Thurs–Sat, 10am–5pm; Sun, noon–5pm. 4303 Brighton Blvd. [forneymuseum.org](http://forneymuseum.org)

**Four Mile Historic Park.** Site of Denver's oldest standing structure. Open Wed–Sun, 10am–4pm. 715 S. Forest St. [fourmilepark.org](http://fourmilepark.org)

**History Colorado.** Some exhibits are timed entry and free with museum admission. 1200 Broadway. More info at [historycolorado.org](http://historycolorado.org)



Patricia Clarke's painting *Grand Mesa Lakes* showing at the Park Hill Artists Open Studio Tour Oct. 23–24.

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**Kirkland Museum of Fine and Decorative Art.** Tue-Sat, 11am-5pm; Sun 12-5pm. Ages 13+ welcome. 1201 Bannock St. kirklandmuseum.org

**Molly Brown House Museum.** Tue-Sun, 10am-4:30pm. 1340 Pennsylvania St. mollybrown.org

**Museo de las Americas.** Tue-Fri, noon-6pm. Sat, noon-5pm. Closed Mon & Sun. 861 Santa Fe Dr. museo.org

**Museum of Contemporary Art Denver.** The LUMINOCITY Gala is Nov. 4. Penny admission 1st Sat. of the month. 1485 Delgany St. mcadenver.org

**National Ballpark Museum.** Open during Rockies' home games, 11am-5pm. 1940 Blake St. ballparkmuseum.com

**The Urban Farm.** Open Fri & Sat, 9am-1pm. Fill out online waiver before arriving. 10200 Smith Rd. theurbanfarm.org

**Wings Over the Rockies Museum.** Oct 2, 10am-2pm, book fair: meet authors of aviation & the military. 7711 East Academy Blvd. wingsmuseum.org

## PERFORMANCE/THEATRE

**10/1, 10/14 & 10/16—Swallow Hill Music Concerts.** Steve Forbert. The Small Glories, and Watkins Family Hour; Daniels Hall, 71 E. Yale Ave. swallowhillmusic.org

**10/6 thru 10/31—The Improvised Shakespeare Company.** Each play is improvised based on an audience suggestion. Garner Galleria Theatre, 1101 13th St, denver-center.org

**10/8 to 10/17—Colorado Ballet Presents Giselle.** Ellie Caulkins Opera House (14th & Curtis) coloradoballet.org

**10/9 & 10/10—Ballet Ariel presents The Toy-maker's Doll, Coppelia.** All will love the shenanigans of a dancing doll and mischievous girl. 119 Park Ave. VV. balletariel.org

**Through 10/10—Hundred Days.** What would you do if you only had 100 days left to live? Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. aurorafoxartscenter.org

**Through 10/16—The Life Span of a Fact.** Proof that the mundane life of a fact-checker is anything but. Th-Sat 7:30pm. 1080 Acoma St. curious theatre.org

**Through 10/31—Young Frankenstein, The Musical.** Based on Mel Brook's classic movie. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. vintagetheatre.org

**Through 10/31—Sisters In Law.** Fri & Sat, 7:30pm. Sun, 2pm. The story of how two very different women, Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, changed the world. John Hand Theater, 7653 E. 1st Pl. theatror.com

**Through 11/7—Cross Words.** What's a six-letter word for speeding up an inheritance? Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. vintagetheatre.org

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Denver Public Schools - Volunteer Services.** Check out what services are needed at local DPS schools at volunteermatch.org/search/org/110806.jsp

**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

**Reach Out and Read Colorado.** Help sort and pack gently-used children's books for underserved families. On the Clayton Early Learning Campus, individuals and groups welcome. Email info@reachoutandreadco.org for details.

**Reading Volunteers Needed.** Stedman Elementary and Bill Roberts Middle School. More info at partnersin-literacy.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** A non-profit formed to serve immigrants and refugees in the Aurora & Denver. villageexchangecenter.org

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

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ables for the MSU Denver Food Pantry. Purchase the book before you come at <https://mcfarlandbooks.com/product/the-science-of-sci-fi-cinema/>. We hope to see you there!

Film is heating up. The festival circuit is in full swing, and the choices are getting better. Let's hope it stays this way! I review one film this week (which won the Academy Award for Best International Feature this past year), and one very unique and interesting HBO show.

One reminder: we are holding an October 7 book signing (*The Science of Sci-Fi*) and film screening of *The Martian* with guest speaker Steve Lee. Dr. Lee is a Mars expert and is featured in the book as well. The festivities begin at 6PM with the book signing, followed by the film screening and discussion at The Cube in Northfield. It is located at 8371 Northfield Blvd, Denver, CO 80238. For more information, visit <https://www.mca80238.com/event-calendar/film-screening-at-the-cube>.

Students from the MSU Denver Film Club will be there to collect non-perish-

### *Another Round* (2020)

The Danish duo of director Thomas Vinterberg and actor Mads Mikkelsen is a proven winner—they teamed up for *The Hunt* (2012), a searing and disturbing drama, and they are back together again for *Another Round*. The premise sounds like a bad frat-house-hazing-ritual: it's based on "Norwegian psychiatrist Finn Skårderud's theory that humans are born with an alcohol blood level 0.05% too low" according to Vinterberg. The theory goes on to suggest that everyone should keep their blood alcohol up to a certain constant level, and it supposedly helps performance in all aspects of life. Mikkelsen's Martin, and a few of friends who teach at the local high school, take up the task. They drink every day, all day.

Don't let that plot summary scare you away, however: the characters are all highly intelligent, engaging, and full of depth. The films coming out of Denmark for the past 20 years are mostly character studies with expressive

cinematography and editing in particular, and *Another Round* is another from this fantastic national cinema. The cinematic aspects are secondary to the excellent writing and acting, however. Mikkelsen is phenomenal, as usual, and adds to his repertoire of wonderfully inhabiting every character he plays, from a junkie in the highly acclaimed *Pusher* series in the 90s to a James Bond baddie to his turn as Dr. Hannibal Lecter in the Netflix series *Hannibal*, to a likeable teacher here. He is a joy to watch.

Unfortunately, disaster struck for Vinterberg just a few days before they started shooting when his young daughter was killed in a car crash. Cast and crew all wished to continue shooting, and Vinterberg agreed. Making such a beautiful movie under these circumstances is unimaginable, but you can see the passion and feeling in every frame. It covers difficult topics, it does so with aplomb, and it is full of life.

You will enjoy this film is liked *In a Better World*, *The Hunt*, and/or *Far From the Madding Crowd*.

Available on Hulu.

### *The Alienist* (HBO)

Sometimes I come across the most surprising gems, and I can't wait to share them. *The Alienist*, a murder-mystery crime-drama set in 1896 New York is one such show. The show is based on Caleb Carr's novel of the same name, and it brings turn-of-the-last-century New York into view with dazzling visuals and imagery. We also have another ensemble cast



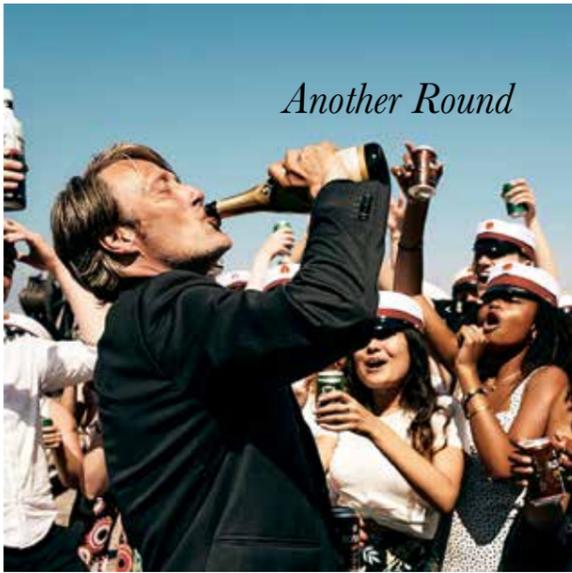
with the intense Daniel Brühl, the wonderful Dakota Fanning, and the surprising Luke Evans. The first season revolves around the three principals investigating a series of disturbing murders, with the strong-willed alienist taking the lead. It is gruesome at points, but then again, NYC was particularly filthy in that era, with only two classes of people: the very rich and the very poor. The poor (mostly immigrants) are treated horribly, and the show spares nothing in the depiction.

The criminal psychologists of the period were called "alienists" because patients of the era were thought to be insane or "alienated" from their true nature. Brühl is commanding as the tightly-wound and high-strung Dr. Kreizler. Fanning is a revelation as a strong character in a vile and sexist city. Evans is very good in a role that is quite different from his some of his more action-heavy roles. The production crew also includes the great independent filmmaker John Sayles (*Lone Star*, *Eight Men Out*, and *Passion Fish*) as one of the writers. The real star of the film, however, is the New York set design and the elaborate all-around production. It is truly a sight to see.

You will enjoy this series if you liked *The Knick*, *Ratched*, and/or *Mindhunter*.

Available on HBO.

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



*Another Round*

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# ...NE News Updates



By Carol Roberts



William (Bill) Roberts ECE-8 School. Photo by Steve Larson

## 1 William (Bill) Roberts ECE-8 School Selected as a National Blue Ribbon School

Bill Roberts was one of 325 schools nationally, one of six in Colorado, and one of three in DPS to be selected by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Blue Ribbon School. As an “Exemplary High-Performing School,” it is among the state’s highest performing as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona said, “In the face of unprecedented circumstances, you found creative ways to engage, care for, protect, and teach our children. Blue Ribbon Schools have so much to offer and can serve as a model for other schools.”

DPS Superintendent Alex Marrero congratulated the three schools in an online video, saying, “On behalf of Team DPS and our entire city, we are so proud and appreciative of the work you’ve done—and continue to do—for our students. Thank you...and congratulations!”

The Blue Ribbon award program is in its 39th year. Nominations for schools are submitted annually by top education officials in all states. Private schools are nominated by the Council for American Private Education.

Two representatives from each school will attend an award ceremony in early November.

## 2 301 Apartments To Be Built near Central Park Rail Station

Central Park rail users are now seeing fencing and a construction office trailer directly across the street from the parking lot. Central Park Station Residences will be a four-story apartment on three acres of land with 301 units. The apartments will be built over two levels of parking.

The courtyards will have views of downtown and of the mountains; amenities will include a pool, grills, cabanas and bocce, as well as a clubhouse, fitness center, co-working areas, a bike/ski repair room and bike storage.

The developer is High Street Residential, the multifamily subsidiary of Trammell Crow Company in partnership with PGIM Real Estate. The project was designed by KTG Architecture and will be constructed by Martines Palmeiro Construction LLC (MPC). (Information from [highstreetresidential.com](http://highstreetresidential.com))

Central Park Station Residences, with 301 apartments, will be built on three acres of land just south of the Central Park Station parking lot. Photo courtesy of KTG Architecture



## 3 9/11 Memorial Dedicated at DIA

On Sept. 10, 2021, the Denver Fire Department, the Denver Police Department, and the Denver Department of Public Safety dedicated a 9/11 memorial to honor the fallen and first responders. The memorial at Fire House 35 located at 25365 E. 75th Ave. on airport property, is comprised of steel from the World Trade Center. The plaque on the memorial reads, “This sacred piece of steel was recov-



Photo courtesy of Denver International Airport

ered from the World Trade Center and serves as a memorial to all those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. We shall never forget.” The steel was donated by the Counterterrorism Education Learning Lab (CELL), which is a non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of terrorism through education, empowerment and engagement.

## 4 Crime Stats

Central Park, with 422 auto thefts so far this year, is second only to DIA in number of car thefts by neighborhood. The DIA total of 492 was primarily in surrounding hotel and commercial lots, with 35% in DIA lots. In Central Park north of I-70, car thefts are up almost 246% over last year. South of I-70 in Central Park they are up more than 145%.

Catalytic converter thefts in Police District 5 rose from 20 last year to 259 so far in 2021. The most targeted vehicles are Honda CRV and Element, Toyota 4Runner and Prius, and Ford vans and trucks.

District 5 police have run 28 street racing suppression operations so far this year. To file a street racing report go to <https://reportstreetracing.com>.

The District 5 Tip Line is 720.913.8477.

Citywide, statistics from the National Incident-Based Reporting System show all crime is up 22% over last year, with property crime up 46% and violent crime up 2.2%. A bit of good news is that accidents are down by 16%.

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Photos courtesy of Denver Art Museum



The Schlessman Bridge, named after the \$2M gift from the Schlessman Family Foundation, connects the iconic tube entrance designed by Ponti to the 14th Avenue Parkway sidewalk. Once the main entrance to the Martin Building, the tube is now a school and youth group entrance.

By Tracy Wolfer Osborne

After three years of renovation and new construction, The Denver Art Museum will re-open to the public on October 24 with a free general admission day. Director of The Denver Art Museum, Christoph Heinrich, says, "As part of the transformation of the Martin Building, we had a once in a lifetime opportunity to rethink and rehaul each and every one of the galleries. Not one gallery

will look like it looked before, and that is not just a new paint coat or new flooring; it is a different approach to the objects.

"The collection galleries have been updated and reconceived with a commitment to telling more inclusive stories, including bringing in more contemporary artists and community voices to provide increased societal and historical contexts. For instance, in the indigenous collection there are many voices from members of different tribes telling the stories of the

objects. We're bringing the backstories of the objects to the forefront of the presentation. It will feel fresh, new, contemporary, engaging, and interactive."

The reopening will mark the 50th anniversary of the newly coined "Lanny and Sharon Martin Building." Designed by Italian architect Gio Ponti and Denver-based James Sudler Associates, the Martin Building has long been considered

# Renovated Museum DAM—An

an architectural gem of Denver's Golden Triangle. The 24th will also mark the opening of the new Anna and John J. Sie Welcome Center that connects the Martin and the Daniel Libeskind-designed Hamilton Buildings. Architecture and Urban Design Firm Machado Silvetti and Fentress reimagined the Martin Building and created the Welcome Center with reverence for Ponti's original vision.

Renovations to the Martin Building include 33,328 square feet of new gallery and public space including the Bonfils Stanton Foundation Gallery—6,500 square feet of reclaimed storage space—that will feature special exhibitions drawn from the collections. Other improvements include the Jana & Fred Bartlit Learning and Engagement Center which features more than 17,600 square feet of flexible programming space on two levels including workshop rooms and the Singer



Above and right: A new grand staircase leads into the illuminated Duncan Hall.

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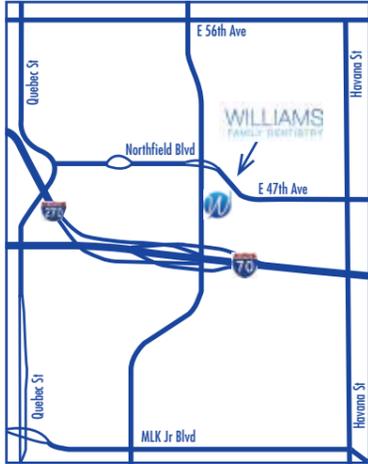
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Opens to the Public Oct. 24

# “Architectural Gem”



Front Porch photo by Steve Larson

DAM Director Christoph Heinrich is pictured in August 2019 as he described the construction underway at that time. Deputy Director Andrea Fulton is pictured at left. During the renovation, all onsite activities—including school tours, exhibitions, presentations, and events—moved to the Hamilton Building.



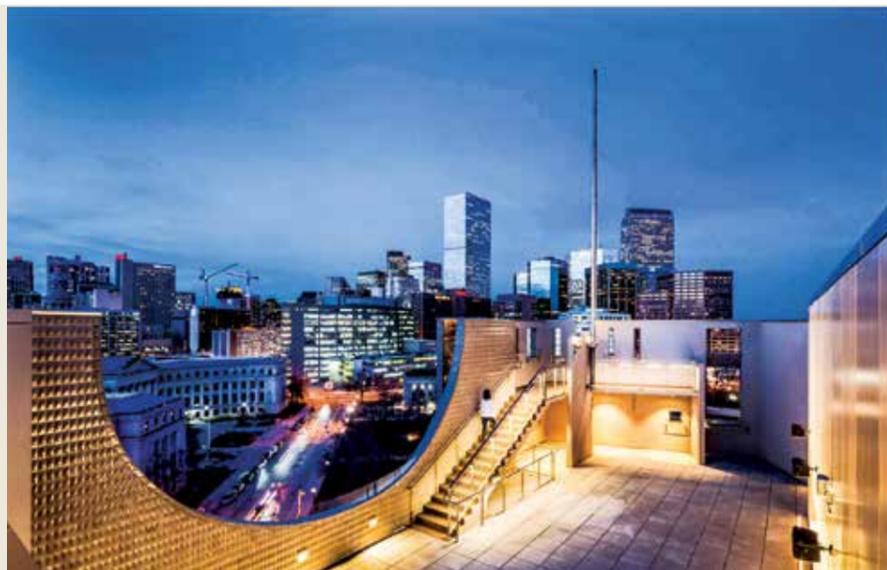
entire campus and provides improved space for ticketing, visitor flow, and guest services. It also includes a preservation laboratory for the study and conservation of the museum’s 70,000 objects. The lab features north-facing windows which will offer indirect light—something that is key to preservation—as well as the opportunity for the public to get a behind-the-scenes look at the museum’s conservation work.

Other renovations include expanded gallery space including 7th-floor-views; infrastructure and safety upgrades including a new elevator core and a transparent public staircase; updated mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems; new skylights and revitalization of glass tiles to the building’s facade; as well as new floors and exterior insulation. A brand new courtyard includes a little arena in recognition of a pavilion Ponti envisioned, but didn’t get to build.

The renovation and expansion project cost a total of \$150 million. Board Chairman, Lanny Martin

Pollack Family Wonderscape which will host community-created exhibitions and school events. “We’ve dedicated a lot of real estate to educational programs,” Heinrich said. “We used to whine that we didn’t have the space to do this or that, but we don’t have that excuse anymore. When you have the space, you fill it with what matters.”

The 50,000-square-foot Sie Welcome Center features 25-foot-tall, 8-foot-wide scalloped glass panels. The Center, which offers two dining options, connects the



The new rooftop terrace on the Martin Building offers views of downtown Denver.

and his wife Sharon, donated \$25 million. Anna and John J. Sie donated \$12 million. The 2007 Better Denver Bonds provided \$3 million the Elevate Denver Bond initiative funded \$35.5 million, and the museum matched public investment dollars with privately-raised funds at a three-to-one ratio.

Reopening events include the Unveiling Opening Gala on October 15. Tables are \$15,000. A pair of seats is \$2,500. Heinrich said they’re still deciding where those

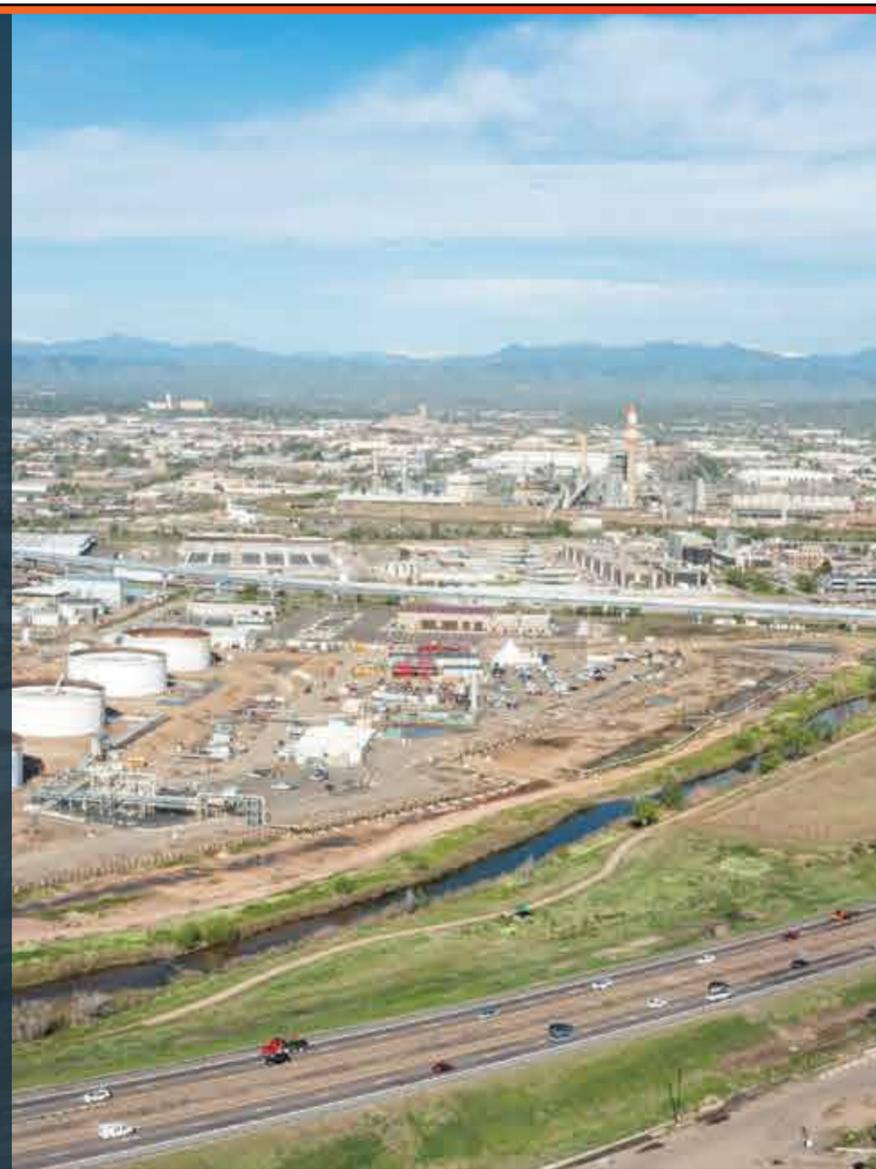
funds might be allocated, but possible benefactors include “a big show about The American Painters in France and one show that will be a killer for families with a big appeal for kids.” There’s also a Members’ Preview on October 21, 22, and 23, a Full Circle celebration on October 22, and a Grand Opening Reception for members only on October 20. To learn more or to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.denverartmuseum.org/en>.



Fifty-two glass panels make the Anna and John J. Sie Welcome Center the largest structural glass facade in North America to hold itself up without intermediate framing.

CCND Air Monitoring is now providing continuous air monitoring information for the Commerce City and North Denver communities.

Learn more at [ccnd-air.com](http://ccnd-air.com).  
Mobile app coming soon.





# It's Food Drive Season!

## Join us for our 11th Annual Community Food Drive!

We work hard all year to serve our community with all things real estate, but autumn is the season for serving those in our community with deeper needs.

From **October 1st-10th**, we are rallying our friends, our neighbors, and YOU to help us provide nourishment to those in our community that are food insecure.

Foregoing our trademark white bags filled with physical cans, we'll be operating a **virtual online collection** again this year. **Food Bank of the Rockies** makes miracles out of cash donations and can turn a \$1 donation into 4 meals! Last year they turned your cash donations into 34,000 meals.

We are proud of our 11-year tradition of mobilizing our community for this important cause. To date your generosity has created 274,905 meals!

Join us in adding to this year's effort!  
 Donate online at:  
[www.nprefooddrive.com](http://www.nprefooddrive.com)  
 or scan the QR code.



**EVERY DONATION COUNTS!**

\$10 = 40 Meals  
 \$25 = 100 Meals  
 \$50 = 200 Meals

Just use this QR code to access & donate today!



A big thank you to our sponsors!



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