

A photograph of a baby sitting in a library, reading a book. The baby is wearing a red sweater and is holding an open book. The book shows a night scene with stars, clouds, and animals. The background shows library shelves and a blue chair. The text '2024' is overlaid in large white letters at the top, and 'Annual Report' is overlaid in large white letters in the middle. At the bottom, 'BOULDER PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT' is written in white capital letters.

# 2024

## Annual Report

BOULDER PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

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## **A Message from the Board of Trustees President**

2024 was a landmark year—the Boulder Library District's first full year of independent operations. In many ways, it was a year of rebuilding and reimagining. As we set out on our own, the Board of Trustees focused on one broad goal: to lay the groundwork for a library system that will thrive for generations to come. And thanks to the extraordinary efforts of our staff and community, that vision is becoming a reality.

Led by our inspiring Library Director, David Farnan, and backed by the passionate support of the Board of Trustees, our incredible staff worked tirelessly to reopen all libraries to pre-pandemic hours, reopen the makerspace, reopen the café, reopen the Carnegie Library for Local History, reopen the Canyon Theater, host the grand opening of the NoBo Library in North Boulder, launch renovations for a new library in Gunbarrel, expand both digital and physical collections, and grow our beloved Boulder Reads literacy programs.

We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our library staff and volunteers. Day in and day out, they breathe life into the library, making it not just a place to visit, but a place to belong.

All of the hard work is paying off. Library visits grew by 13%, program attendance jumped by 14%, and the number of cardholders jumped by 19% compared to last year—defying national trends and proving what's possible when a community invests in public infrastructure.

Because at its heart, the library isn't just a building or a collection of books. It's a living, breathing place of imagination and transformation. It's where debates happen, where dreams take shape, where minds meet and change each other. It's where our community connects.

As the Boulder Library District, we pledge to keep your library safe, welcoming, and full of possibility. All we ask is that you keep coming—bring your friends, host your events, use the rooms, check out books, attend programs, dream your dreams, and scheme your schemes. Help us build a better Boulder, one idea, one connection, one story at a time.

- Doug Hamilton, Board Chair

# About the Boulder Public Library District

- Boulder Public Library District was formed by a vote of the people on November 7, 2022.
- BPLD began collecting property tax revenues, negotiated Intergovernmental Agreements with the City of Boulder and Boulder County, and set up of operations in 2023.
- The Board of Trustees was seated in May 2023.
- The City of Boulder continued to fund and operate the library system through December 31, 2023. The unspent 2023 property tax revenues for operations set up were carried over to fiscal year 2024 to reimburse the City of Boulder for operating the library system in 2023.
- The Boulder Public Library District began operating independently on January 1, 2024.

## Mission

Connecting people, ideas, and information to transform lives and strengthen our community.

## Vision

The Boulder Public Library District serves as a centerpiece of the community, a destination for human connection, life-long learning, civic engagement, and creative exploration.

# Boulder Public Library District Leadership

### 2024 Executive Team

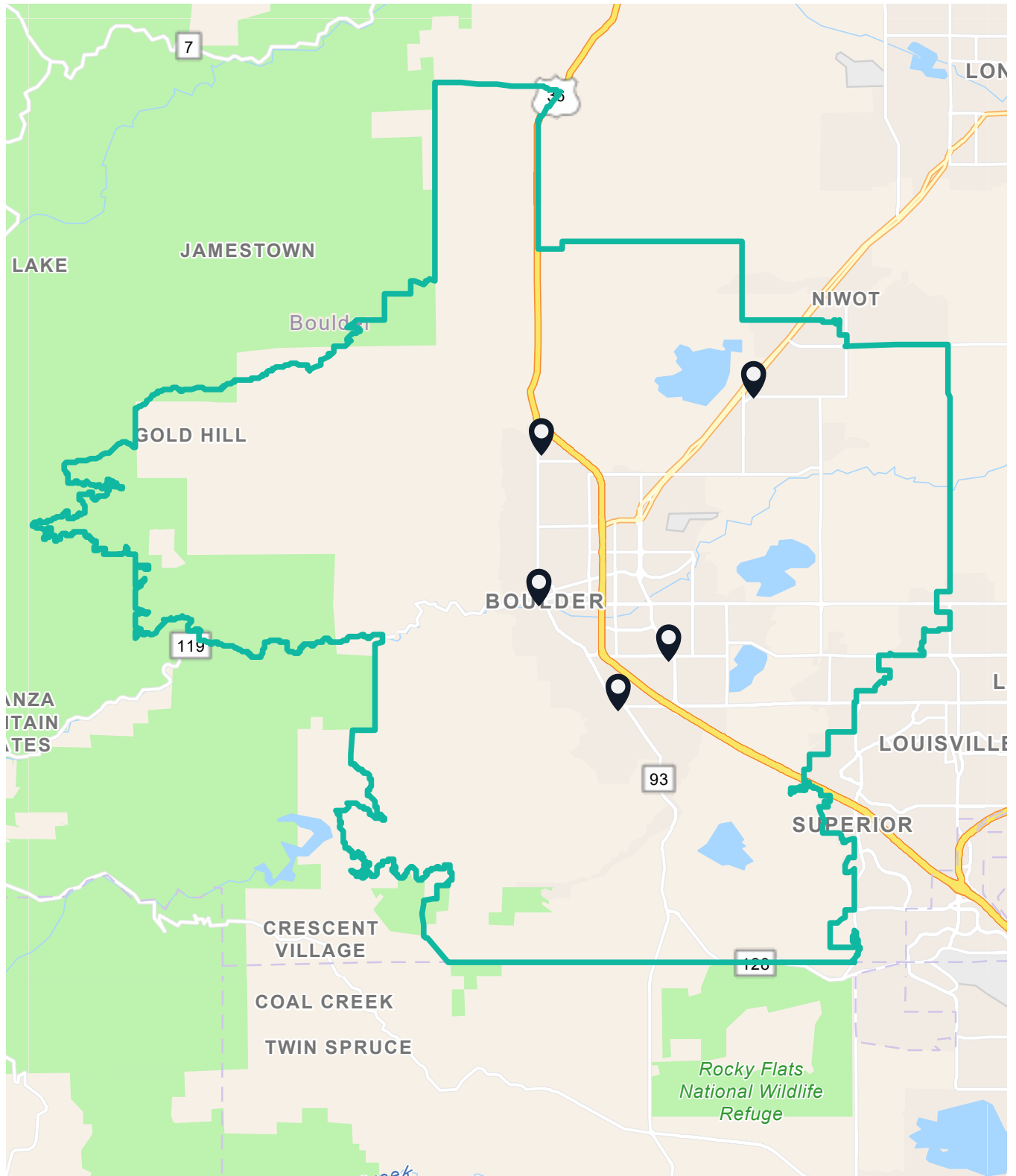
David Farnan, Library Director  
Jennifer Phares, Director of Business and Administration  
Sydney McCoy, Director of Public Services  
Aimee Schumm, Director of Innovation and Technology  
Laura Hankins, Director of Collection Services

### Board of Trustees

Joni Teter, 2023-2024 President  
Jennifer Yee  
Sam Fuqua  
Cara O'Brien, 2024-2025 Treasurer  
Doug Hamilton, 2024-2025 President  
Sylvia Wirba, 2023- 2024 Treasurer  
Benita Duran, 2023-2025 Vice President  
Tom Cosgrove  
Andy Sayler

### Term

2023 - 2024  
2023 - 2024  
2023 - 2025  
2023 - 2026  
2023 - 2027  
2023 - 2027  
2023 - 2028  
2024 - 2028  
2024 - 2029





# Financials

## 2024 Statement of Activities

	Approved Budget	Adjusted YE Actuals	Encumbrances
<b>Revenue</b>			
Property Tax	21,404,074.00	21,727,362.67	0.00
Carryover Revenue	16,577,384.04	14,027,384.04	0.00
Interest Income	0.00	879,951.36	0.00
Donations	0.00	611.45	0.00
Sales	35,000.00	45,076.23	0.00
Book Fees	0.00	14,932.75	0.00
City of Boulder 2023 Fund Balance	592,811.00	592,811.00	0.00
Boulder Library Foundation	0.00	570,622.00	0.00
State of Colorado Grant	0.00	28,824.00	
Café Sale	0.00	35,807.86	0.00
Miscellaneous Sale	8,000.00	20,174.83	0.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>38,617,269.04</b>	<b>37,943,558.19</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Personnel	12,522,894.00	9,783,830.82	0.00
Administrative	422,515.00	183,522.51	0.00
Board Governance			
Legal Consultants & Fees	150,000.00	123,348.71	0.00
Auditor	27,600.00	16,500.00	0.00
Board Food	6,000.00	4,952.61	0.00
Board Memberships & Travel	5,000.00	748.35	0.00
<b>Total Board Governance</b>	<b>188,600.00</b>	<b>145,549.67</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Purchased Services	1,481,675.00	1,378,034.75	0.00
Building Costs & Utilities	954,494.00	1,021,496.26	24,988.14
IT Support	1,626,533.00	1,483,355.38	0.00
Library Collection	1,975,050.00	1,738,441.81	0.00
Marketing & Engagement	200,000.00	133,812.77	0.00
Programs & Events	385,000.00	421,526.14	0.00
Capital Outlay	4,848,411.00	1,874,278.83	2,281,873.02
Cafe	50,000.00	35,674.95	0.00
2023 City of Boulder Library Expenses	12,012,232.65	12,012,232.65	0.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>36,667,404.65</b>	<b>30,211,756.54</b>	<b>2,306,861.16</b>
<b>Total Change in Fund Balance</b>	<b>1,949,864.39</b>	<b>7,731,801.65</b>	<b>(2,306,861.16)</b>

# Financials

## 2024 YE Balance Sheet

### Assets

#### Current Assets

##### Cash & Cash Equivalents

11001 - Chase checking account	580,313.22
11011 - COLOTRUST Prime Account	10,309,153.33
13002 - Cash Drawers & Change Fund	1,750.00

Total Cash & Cash Equivalents 10,891,216.55

Accounts Receivable, Net 6,464.52

Other Current Assets 25,064.00

Total Current Assets 10,922,745.07

Total Assets 10,922,745.07

### Liabilities and Fund Balance

#### Liabilities

Total Short-term Liabilities 650,225.30

Total Liabilities 650,225.30

#### Fund Balances

General Fund Reserves 2,550,000.00

Change in Fund Balance 7,722,519.77

Total Fund Balances 10,272,519.77

**Total Liabilities and Fund Balance 10,922,745.07**

# Key Performance Indicators

## Library Card Holders

	2023	2024	Percent Change
District service area population	107,000	133,700	25% ↑
Number of library cards as a percent of total population	119.35 %	102%	
Percent of households <sup>1</sup> in the District with library cards	-	64%	
New library card issued	8,682	10,324	19% ↑

Having more cardholders than the service area population makes BPLD an outlier among libraries statewide. With sixty-four percent of households holding library cards, Boulder Library is a leader among peer library systems in the state. The number of new card holders annually continues a decades-long trend of steady growth, likely due, in part, to the annual influx of new college students to the community.

## Visits

	2023	2024	Percent Change
Total In-Person Visits	552,408	625,243	13% ↑
Total Program Attendance	55,612	63,173	14% ↑

## Uses

	2023	2024	Percent Change
Total materials circulation	1,500,289	1,606,870	7% ↑
Electronic format materials circulation	401,391	472,169	17.6% ↑
Electronic format circulation as a percent of total materials circulation	32.4%	35.9%	3.5% ↑
Computer sessions	32,199	31,066	-4% <sup>2</sup> ↓

<sup>1</sup> Caveat. Some multi-dwelling residences map to a single address. This means that this data excludes residents in most mobile home parks, some university housing, and multi-dwelling residential facilities such as retirement communities and nursing homes. Even though this number is not precise, due to this caveat, it is useful to track and easily replicated year-to year.

<sup>2</sup> The primary cause for this downward trend in computer use at libraries is the increasing prevalence of home access to high-speed internet and the ownership of smartphones. Also, Wi-Fi service has become a near ubiquitous amenity, available in most public places and for people who give their patronage to businesses such as cafes, restaurants, hotels, grocery stores, etc.



The seven percent increase in total materials circulation was driven by the use of electronic format materials. Circulation of physical materials was flat for the second consecutive year. Circulation of electronic format materials has grown 88 percent during the past five years.

Over the past fifteen years, there has been a 75 percent decline in individual public computing sessions for Colorado public libraries along the Front Range. By comparison, Boulder Public Library experienced an 84 percent decline in individual computing sessions during the same period. Since 2020 this trend has been even more precipitous with individual public computing sessions by Boulder Public Library patrons decreasing by nearly 60 percent since 2019.

## **2022 Ballot Promises Fulfilled**

In 2024, library staff worked with the Board of Trustees to meet the 2022 ballot promises made to voters who approved the formation and funding of the Boulder Public Library District.

- Restored and improved literacy programs, including partnerships with schools to reach underserved students and students who fell behind during the pandemic.
- Additional free and safe public spaces for community meetings, workshops, and programs.
- Updated and improved collections of books and materials, including bilingual materials and downloading of e-books, movies, and music.
- Extended hours at all existing libraries and a new branch library in Gunbarrel.
- Expanded access to STEAM programs, makerspaces, and free internet for young people, underserved communities, and older adults.
- Improved maintenance, cleanliness, safety, and security at all library facilities.

# Highlights



Photos: Juliana Soares



# NoBo Library Opening

After years of community hopes and decades of planning, the new full-service North Boulder [NoBo] Library opened to the public in July 2024. More than 3,000 community members attended the grand opening celebration on Saturday, June 29, 2024. Eight months after opening, the library is performing at levels equal to the previously existing branch libraries of Boulder Public Library District in terms of circulation and visitors.

The NoBo Library was planned to be a community hub, with extensive input from area residents. The site for the library was selected in 1994 and sits at the heart of a broader neighborhood between a series of apartment buildings, a creek and the largest neighborhood of manufactured houses in Boulder. The building's design was intended to evoke a sense of playfulness, featuring diverse entryways and facades, and a musical walkway that stretches up to the second floor.

The library includes a large public reading area, a children's room, study rooms, meeting rooms – including the largest public meeting room in North Boulder - and a makerspace that is fully staffed and programmed by staff as well as local artists and creatives. The library's BoulderReads program is also located at the NoBo Library and serves the early literacy needs of the surrounding community and the more broadly the adult literacy needs of Boulder area residents.

A playground is planned and under construction to adjoin the library building. A City of Boulder Park is scheduled to begin construction in 2026 adjacent to the property south of the library.



*Photo: Celine Cooper*

## Literacy and Outreach

In 2024, the library launched the implementation of its 2024-2028 Literacy and Outreach strategic plan with the goal of deepening community connections and engagement, especially with marginalized and underserved communities. In 2024, the library engaged with community members at events and through onsite programs at more than four times the rate of the previous year.

Additionally, the library expanded literacy programming for adults in 2024. These programs are transforming lives.

Each year, BoulderReads learners contribute an original story, poem, or article that they have written to the annual Discoveries publication.

The theme for the 2024 edition of Discoveries was “Your Journey.” Contributors shared their experiences transitioning from one community to a new one, what it means to them to become American citizens and, in some cases, what it’s like to have dual citizenship and identity. Their stories described their challenges and the rewards of learning a new skill or subject, and how it has changed their life for the better.



*Click the cover to read  
the magazine*

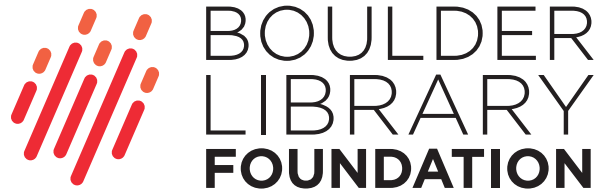
## Volunteers

Volunteerism is an avenue to connect people, information, and ideas through meaningful service opportunities that transform lives and strengthen the community. Volunteers at the library practice self-efficacy, make connections, learn civic engagement skills, engage in lifelong learning, and actively build community together. In 2024, more than 800 new and returning volunteers expanded the library’s capacity to engage community members, maintain the library collection, reach patrons with limited access, record oral history and preserve local history, bring literacy programs to life, inspire a love of reading, practice civil discourse, welcome patrons to creative spaces, events, and more. As we open new libraries, launch programs, and maintain ongoing opportunities and services, volunteers play a crucial role in ensuring that our work is sustainable, impactful, and enduring.

- The number of volunteers went up 22% from 710 in 2023 to 865 in 2024.
- Hours of service contributed by volunteers increased 6% from 16,288 to 17,300.

In 2024, the equivalent monetary value of the hours contributed by volunteers was \$555,000 according to Independent Sector’s volunteer labor equivalency rate - equal to 8.3 full-time employees.

# Boulder Library Foundation



The Boulder Library Foundation celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2024 with a sold-out gala that featured best-selling author Bonnie Garmus, author of “Lessons in Chemistry.” The event netted \$138,000 for the library’s literacy and outreach programs.

In 2024, the Boulder Library Foundation raised \$537,000 and granted \$669,000 to support programming and capital construction projects and to purchase equipment for the Boulder Public Library. The Foundation’s grants supported a new playground at the new North Boulder Library, archival collections acquisition and staffing at the Carnegie Library for Local History, acquisition of a stage, audio-visual equipment, a culinary cart and much more. The Foundation also spent nearly \$5,000 on direct programming, including musical performances and three short story dispensers.

## **2024, by the numbers:**

New donors: 192

Total donors: 418

Amount raised: \$537,000

Granted to BPL: \$669,000

Newsletter subscribers: 4,409 (6% increase)

## **2024 Boulder Library Foundation Board of Directors:**

Kitty deKieffer, President

Jenny Slade, Vice President

Sharon Bloom, Secretary

Julie Yates, Treasurer

Alice Brown

Kristin Centanni

Ethan Decker

Adriana Farmer

Tina Ottersberg

Kavita Sienknecht

Andy Sayler, Library District Representative

Silvia Wirba, Library District Representative

David Farnan, Library Director

Doris Hass, Founder

Chris Barge, Executive Director

Learn more and donate today at [www.boulderlibraryfoundation.org](http://www.boulderlibraryfoundation.org).

## **Boulder Public Library District Locations**

### **Main Library**

1001 Arapahoe Avenue  
Boulder, Colorado 80302

### **Carnegie Library for Local History**

1125 Pine Street  
Boulder, Colorado 80302

### **Reynolds Library**

3595 Table Mesa Drive  
Boulder, Colorado 80305

### **Meadows Library**

4800 Baseline Road  
Boulder, Colorado 80303

### **NoBo Library**

4500 13th Street  
Boulder, Colorado 80304