

FOR THE PARK

FOR THE PEOPLE

FOR THE FUTURE



CREDIT: James W. Rogers

2 0 2 1 A N N U A L R E P O R T





LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

I'm pretty proud of this small but mighty organization. I joined the Civic Center Conservancy board over 17 years ago because I knew that Civic Center was special and needed a caretaker who would advocate for it as it deserved. But over the years, I realized the Conservancy is about more than that.

Civic Center is Denver's most beloved public space. Adjacent to downtown and vibrant, rapidly-changing neighborhoods, Civic Center is the heart of our community. It's where we go to play, pause, process, and literally protest. For Civic Center to be active and thriving for absolutely everyone, for it to be clean, safe, and beautiful every single day, and for it to host some of our city and state's most iconic events, it needs a lot of care and a lot of advocacy.

And that's where the Conservancy shined this year. We have known Civic Center needed more for years — the Conservancy has been beating that drum for some time. But the pandemic magnified problems faced in our city, many of which were concentrated in the park. The Conservancy recognized this and shared with our community. As a result, they volunteered, they donated, and they advocated.

Despite all the challenges the park faced, we had several victories. We continued our community-connecting programming, including Civic Center EATS and MOVES, and began a new volunteer program, SPARKLES, to help fill the gaps. We were joined by new Next 100 corporate and foundation partners and our donor community to bring us closer to realizing the community's vision for the park.

Each victory resulted from the Conservancy's long-term commitment to the community and our demonstrated ability to program and restore the park. Civic Center is a public park, so there will always be challenges, but there will also always be rewards as the park continues to be a one-of-a-kind gathering space for the wonderful people of our city.

I am honored to be part of this organization and commend the commitment of our board, staff, volunteers, and every other park steward who cares for this essential public space.

-Chris Frampton, Chair

Chris Frampton



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Great cities are defined by their ability to make those who call them home feel a sense of belonging. Civic Center Park is essential to what makes Denver a place where all people belong.

2021 was quite a year for Civic Center. Still amid a global pandemic, we managed to stay true to our work. This past year, we launched new programming and continued to connect people to Denver's most beloved space:

- FOR THE PARK:** We began a new volunteer program, Civic Center SPARKLES, adding 300 hours of volunteer time to keep Civic Center clean and beautiful.
- FOR THE PEOPLE:** We began and led a roundtable with the park's key stakeholders, addressing park welcome and safety to find sustainable, achievable solutions for the park's most challenging issues.
- FOR THE FUTURE:** We joined the City of Denver in leading the Civic Center Next 100 Concept Design to shape the future of Civic Center Park for generations to come.

But listen, if you watched the news, you know that we didn't just experience triumph this year. We also experienced tribulation. Despite adding additional resources to the park, it just wasn't enough. The park requires a great deal of care, and it needed more than it received. The park ultimately closed in the fall, albeit temporarily.

The Conservancy quickly shifted into gear, talking to our city's government, community, service provider, and business leaders to find solutions. After all, we are investing a great deal of time and money (and asking others to follow suit) to ensure that our park is a daily destination for residents, workers, and visitors over the coming years. Fortunately, the City and County of Denver and our funding community responded with compassion and support.

The City and County of Denver committed \$1.5 million annually for additional full-time maintenance, horticulture, and ranger staff for Civic Center and the downtown Parks — an unprecedented commitment for which we had been advocating for years. The Conservancy will build on that foundation by adding additional cleanup crews through our new Civic Center WORKS program, set to launch this spring.

We held our new annual fundraiser, Shaping Civic Center, to celebrate and support some remarkable changes coming to the park and raised over \$100,000.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that we completed a significant milestone in the Civic Center Next 100 project timeline: completing the concept design process for several transformative projects that will change the park's landscape. But you can read more about that in this Report.

The support of our donors, volunteers, community groups, partners, elected officials, and staff was essential to our success and will continue to be over the next year. We are honored to be the park's stewards and look forward to working with all to ensure that Civic Center Park is active and thriving for all.

-Eric Lazzari, Executive Director

Eric Lazzari

LIST OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chris Frampton, Chair, East-West Partners
Elaine Asarch, Founder & Past Chair
Matt Neren, Secretary, Cultivator Advertising & Design
Jerrel Armstrong, Treasurer, IWP Family Office
Heather Ashour, Arnold & Porter
Sean Bahoshy, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
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John Gowen, Liberty Global
Happy Haynes, ex officio, Denver Parks and Recreation
Nicole Isenberg, Sage Hospitality
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Peter Park, Peter J Park, LLC | University of Colorado, Denver
Eric Rymarz, Urban Villages
Andrew Stettner, Stettner Properties
Marvin Wilkinson, John Brooks Incorporated
Molly Wink, ex officio, Denver Arts & Venues

STAFF

Eric Lazzari, Executive Director
Sara Leitch, Development Manager

Events and programming by Headline Events

SUPPORT KEEPING US ACTIVE AND THRIVING

The Conservancy received support from a variety of groups for special projects, programming, and general operating support this year.

BELOW SUMMARIZES OUR MOST SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT.



Next 100 Corporate Partners contributed a total of **\$110,000** to continue transforming Civic Center for the next 100 years.



THE VF FOUNDATION



URICHMOND
AMERICAN
FOUNDATION

east west partners



PROGRAMMING

VF Foundation granted pilot funding of **\$50,000** to launch Civic Center's first WORKS program, a workforce redevelopment program that will employ people experiencing homelessness to maintain and enhance the park.

VF Foundation gave an additional **\$10,000** toward Civic Center MOVES to provide free and reduced price outdoor fitness classes to the public in Civic Center Park.

Bonfils-Stanton Foundation granted the Conservancy **\$15,000** to support Civic Center LIVE, cultural programming for the public in the Greek Amphitheater. They also provided an additional **\$6,000** grant to support general operating expenses during the pandemic.

Westword continued to support Civic Center EATS with a **\$10,000** presenting sponsorship.

CITY BEAUTIFUL CIRCLE

Forty members of our community joined the City Beautiful Circle, giving at least **\$1,000** in unrestricted gifts each to benefit the park, for the people of Denver, and for the future of this essential public space. They contributed over **\$205,000**, which will strengthen the Conservancy's operations and raise the quality of care Civic Center receives.



CREDIT: Wenk Associates



CREDIT: Liveable Cities Studio

The Greek Theater and Central Promenade will be the first projects to move forward. The City and County of Denver has allocated \$15 million toward these projects.

NEXT 100 CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

In 2021, Civic Center Conservancy, in partnership with the City and County of Denver, led the Civic Center Next 100 Concept Design: Civic Center Park & Bannock Street. The projects will improve Civic Center to catalyze new activity and animate the heart of Denver. The transformation of four key areas will bring to life the Park's Master Plan and elevate Denver's First National Historic Landmark with daily energy, performances, and special events for the next 100 years. These transformative projects included: the Greek Amphitheater, the Central Promenade, Bannock Street, and a Central Gathering Feature.

Three sets of public workshops and surveys with unprecedented participation were held to define concept designs and collect ideas from the public. Concept designs were finalized for the Greek Theater, Central Promenade, and Bannock Street. The Greek Theater and Central Promenade will move into final design in early 2022. The Conservancy and City are working on securing the capital to fund these two projects fully.

The Central Gathering Feature will seek additional concept design work, and Bannock Street improvements await additional funding to move forward with design and construction.

[VIEW CONCEPT DESIGNS](#)



CREDIT: Wenk Associates

CONSERVANCY IMPACT REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2021-DECEMBER 31, 2021

FOR THE **PARK**

100

NEW VOLUNTEERS



300+
HOURS
VOLUNTEERED

10,000+
LIGHTS POWERED AT
GREAT LAWN HOLIDAY LIGHTS



50+

COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS
JOIN OUR WELCOME + SAFE
CIVIC CENTER ROUNDTABLE

CONSERVANCY IMPACT REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2021-DECEMBER 31, 2021

FOR THE **PEOPLE**

248 POUNDS
OF VEGETABLES TO FEED **500** PEOPLE
HARVESTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GROW LOCAL



15,000
FOOD TRUCK MEALS SERVED



44
DAYS OF EATS



24
DAYS OF MOVES

7 NEW
COMMUNITY LEADERS TO
OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONSERVANCY IMPACT REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2021-DECEMBER 31, 2021

FOR THE **FUTURE**

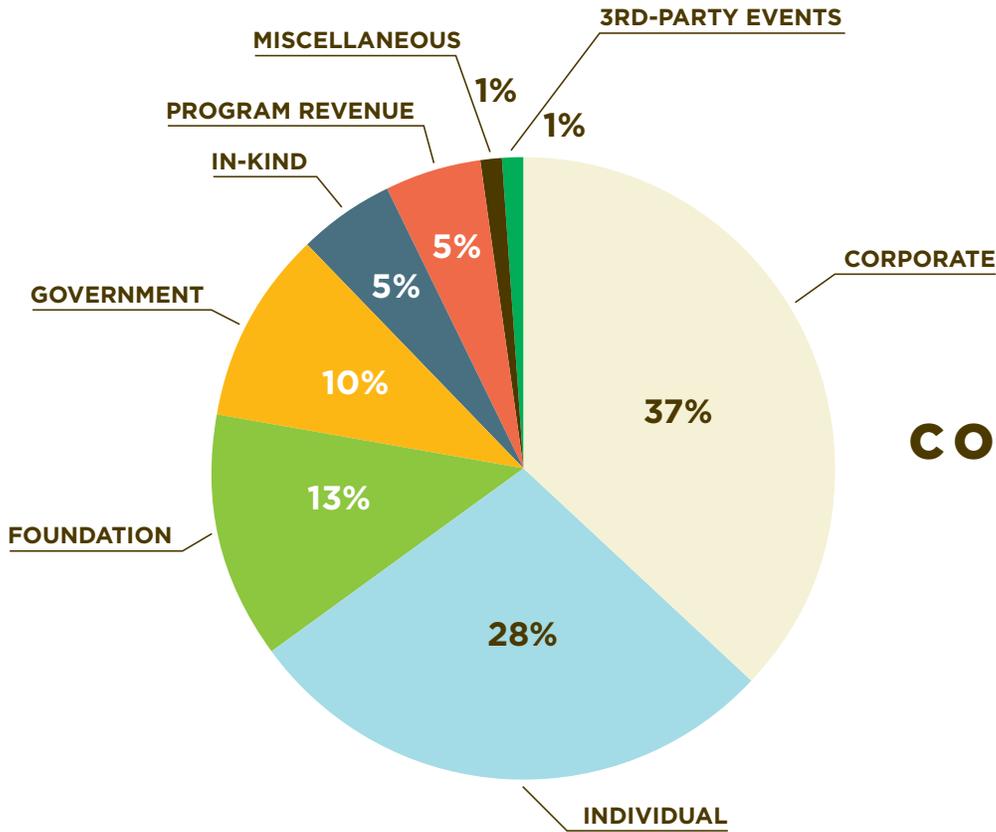
3,500 POINTS 
OF FEEDBACK RECEIVED IN
NEXT 100 PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

3 **CONCEPT DESIGNS**
TO MOVE THE CIVIC CENTER
MASTER PLAN FORWARD

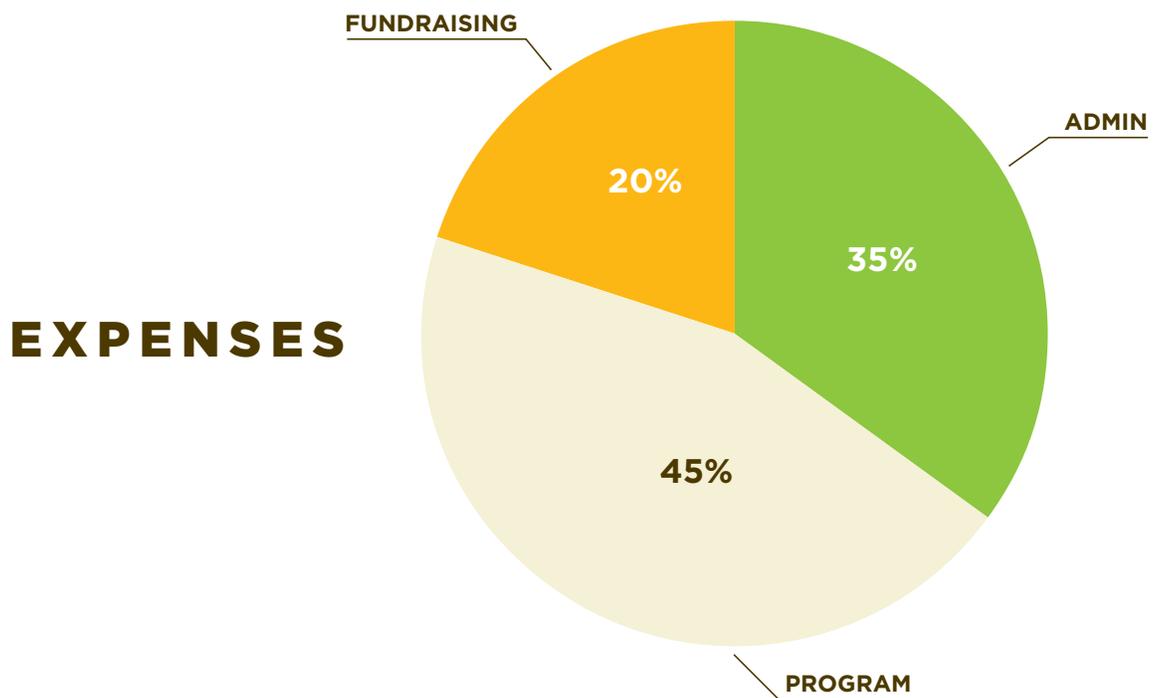
\$15M COMMITTED FROM CITY AND
COUNTY OF DENVER TOWARD
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

FINANCIAL REPORT

Unaudited numbers for 2021



CONTRIBUTIONS



EXPENSES

2021 CONTRIBUTORS



Next 100 Partners have committed unrestricted, often multi-year gifts of \$15,000+ to re-energize our treasured Denver landmark for the next 100 years. This was one of our most critical funding sources during this transformative time for the park.

CHAMPIONS



SUPPORTERS

east west partners



2021 CONTRIBUTORS

CORPORATE

\$25,000+

First Bank
Liberty Global
MDC Holdings/Richmond American Homes
Foundation

\$15,000+

East West Partners
Urban Villages

\$5,000-\$10,000

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP
BuildMark
KPMG
McWhinney
Oxy
Ropes & Gray LLP
Saunders Construction, Inc.
Stettner Properties
Suncor
UMB
Westword
Xcel Energy

\$2,500-\$4,999

AT&T
CRL Associates
Gensler
Microsoft
United Healthcare

\$500-\$2,499

Avalon Bay
Original By Greeks
Wenk Associates
YPO - Colorado

FOUNDATIONS

Boettcher Foundation

Bonfils-Stanton Foundation

VF Foundation

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTORS

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP

Barefoot PR

Cultivator Advertising & Design

Westword

GOVERNMENT

Denver Parks & Recreation

Denver Arts & Venues

2021 CONTRIBUTORS

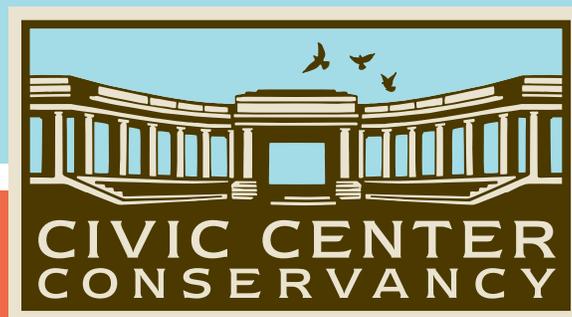
CITY BEAUTIFUL CIRCLE

City Beautiful Circle, named for the City Beautiful Movement, is a dedicated group of individuals invested in keeping Civic Center Park active and thriving for all with unrestricted gifts of at least \$1,000.

Anonymous (1)	Arlene & Barry Hirschfeld
Libby Anschutz & Jeff Allen	Matt & Sarah Hogan
Jerrel & Maggie Armstrong	Dennis Humphries
Elaine & Dr. Richard Asarch	Bruce & Kelly James
Heather & Nael Ashour	Nicole Jarman
Sean & Melissa Bahoshy	Amanda Johnson
Justin Ball and Eric Deffenbaugh	Jim Kelley
Ferdinand & Christy Belz	Eric & Leah Lazzari
Howard & Carol Boigon	Lindy Eichenbaum-Lent & Jason Lent
Trish & Tully Bragg	J. Landis & Sharon Martin
Sureel and Bijal Choksi	Chris Molter
Robert and Liane Clasen	Balan Nair
FloraJane & James DiRienzo	Susan & Howard Noble
Peter and Catherine Eklund	Wende Nossaman
Chris & Yvette Frampton	Katie & Michael Owen
Susan & Harry Frampton	Peter & Kristin Park
Scott Fuselier & Tonya Frank	Marcus Pachner & Stacie Loucks
The Fries Foundation	Andrew & Sarah Stettner
John & Susan Gowen	Darrell Watson & Mike Wenk
Hal & Jackie Hawkey	Marvin Wilkinson & Arthur Ellsworth



Civic Center Conservancy is dedicated to keeping Denver's Civic Center Park active and thriving for all. As an independent nonprofit, the Civic Center Conservancy engages individuals, businesses, and community groups as champions for this essential public space. The Conservancy attracts people to the park, supports the park's upkeep, and ensures it meets the needs of anyone who gathers there, for today and for the future.



CIVIC CENTER CONSERVANCY
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