

FOR THE PARK

FOR THE PEOPLE

FOR THE FUTURE



CREDIT: James W. Rogers

2023 ANNUAL REPORT





LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

I've been a part of Civic Center Conservancy for nearly 20 years.

It seems like yesterday when we mobilized a group of concerned citizens to re-establish Civic Center as Denver's great urban center, designating the Conservancy as the Park's steward. It was 2005. We've been committed to this for a very long time.

We dreamt of a Civic Center that was active and thriving – bolstered by a Greek Theater and Central Promenade spectacular enough to match the grandeur of our iconic National Historic Landmark, but accessible enough that the park truly reflected the very best of Denver.

Here we go!

At this time last year, we had Final Concept Designs for the Greek Theater and Central Promenade and were gearing up to announce the designer of the Greek Theater. We've since announced that Studio Gang, the renowned international firm led by revolutionary architect Jeanne Gang, was selected and the design process is underway. This selection is among the most exciting milestones we've reached since I joined the Conservancy board. You can read more about her in this Annual Report.

It's hard to believe that when I write this next year, we'll be gearing up for shovels to hit the ground.

And, yet, we'll also be running Denver's most dynamic park. Concerts, holiday festivals, night markets, works programs, youth programs, food trucks, gardening, fitness programs, festivals, and drone shows. It's all happening in Civic Center right now.

We do all of this with an incredibly dedicated group of donors, partners, ambassadors, and team members. They are the reason that we are able to provide such an incredible experience for all of our 750,000 visitors.

Almost there,

Chris Frampton

Chris Frampton, Chairperson



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We found our “thing.”

While our North Star of an active and thriving park has remained the same, throughout the last 20 years, we’ve looked at it through different lenses.

You’ve likely noticed that our programming and partnerships have grown substantially over the past few years. That’s due to our social impact lens. For us, this means meeting the needs of the park through partnerships that elevate Denver’s diverse communities.

This model has completely transformed our programming. Not only is there more of it, but it’s more effective.

Civic Center is more dynamic, more vibrant, and more reflective of the fabric of our city.

At the same time, we have been preparing to physically transform Civic Center through the Next 100 Greek Theater and Central Promenade projects while several other Downtown Denver projects are underway. It’s exciting to see so many pieces come together.

Thank you to each of you who has helped the Conservancy put these pieces together through your donations, your advocacy, and your visits. Thank you for entrusting us to steward this iconic space for our community.

Eric Lazzari

Eric Lazzari, Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jerrel Armstrong, IWP Family Offices
Heather Ashour, Arnold + Porter
Sean Bahoshy, Brownstein
Trish Bragg, Liv Sotheby's International Realty
FloraJane DiRienzo, Biennial of the Americas
Chris Frampton, East West Partners
Kourtny Garrett, Downtown Denver Partnership
Danielle Glover, CRL Associates
Nicole Isenberg, Sage Hospitality
Nicole Jarman, Jarman & Co. Events
Lulu Lantzy, Auraria Higher Education Campus
Grace López Ramírez, Xcel Energy
Jaime Moreno, CO Access
Jennifer Nealson, National Cattlemen's Beef Association
Matt Neren, Cultivator Advertising & Design
Susan Noble, Community Volunteer
Danielle Oliveto, State of Colorado, Office of the Governor
Marcus Pachner, The Pachner Company
Peter Park, Peter Park Planning + Design
Eric Rymarz, Urban Villages
Andrew Stettner, Stettner Properties
Marvin Wilkinson, John Brooks Incorporated
Mark Bernstein, Ex officio, City & County of Denver
Mark Heiser, Ex officio, City & County of Denver
Molly Wink, Ex officio, City & County of Denver



Eric Rymarz
Urban Villages
Civic Center Conservancy
Board Member

“Civic Center Park is the heartbeat of Denver. Serving on the Civic Center Conservancy’s board helps preserve precious urban greenspace and historical structures while serving as an incredible amenity for the surrounding neighborhood and hosting important City events. I am honored to be part of an effort to ensure this national historic landmark remains accessible while improving environmental sustainability for our current residents and future generations.”

STAFF

Eric Lazzari, Executive Director
Jonathan Jaucinde, Event Success Coordinator
Sara Leitch, Development Director
Murphy Hogan, Program & Development Operations Coordinator
Eric Raya Steinbess, Director of Community Partnerships & Activation
Piep van Heuven, Deputy Director

FOR THE PARK



2,700 HOURS OF BEAUTIFYING CIVIC CENTER



The Conservancy resumed its workforce development program, Civic Center WORKS, employing unhoused individuals to keep the park clean, green, and beautiful through supplemental maintenance in Civic Center Park.

We nearly doubled the number of participants, with **38% finding employment** at entities like RTD, Safeway, Denver Mile High, USPS, and Billy's Gourmet Hot Dogs. Thank you to VF for supporting this program.



PARTNERS



Employment Matters



THE VF FOUNDATION

LaToya White

“Working for the community makes you want to go to work. There’s always something to do here in the park.”

FOR THE PARK



PRESENTED BY
amazon

In partnership with Denver’s Parks & Recreation, our SPARKLES Volunteer Program provides supplemental maintenance for the park and allows members of our community to take an active role in enhancing their most iconic public space.

This year was our biggest year to date, with over **800 hours** of service from nearly **300 volunteers**.

We continued our partnership with Grow Local Colorado maintaining and harvesting **2,000 pounds** of produce from **10 beds** for Denverites who needed it the most. Food went to food service organizations like Metro Caring, SAME Café, and We Don’t Waste.



Micah Gurard-Levin, *Liberty Global*

“Volunteering with Civic Center SPARKLES has become a valued annual tradition that connects our employees to the fabric of our city in a meaningful way. While building connections with each other, our volunteers also deepen their connection to Civic Center Park and the vital civic, social, and cultural roles the park plays in our community. Volunteering at Civic Center Park is an investment in the park, an investment in our community, and an investment in our employees.”

PARTNERS



BANK OF AMERICA



FOR THE PEOPLE

SEEDING A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GARDEN CLUB OF DENVER



After learning about the Conservancy’s initiatives to involve vulnerable community members in gardening and horticulture maintenance, the Garden Club of Denver visited and volunteered to see the work in action. They committed to elevating the park through their community initiatives. We are excited to build a partnership with this esteemed group of individuals dedicated to inclusive gardening and beauty.

The Garden Club of Denver was founded on a mutual love for gardening and the natural beauty of Colorado, seeking knowledge and expertise in horticulture, conservation, floral design, and photography. They share these ideas and skills with their members and the community.



Kathleen Thomas, Community Outreach Chair for the Garden Club of Denver

“This new relationship hits at the heart of the Garden Club of Denver’s purpose and values, while also supporting an organization that serves as the physical crown jewel of the City of Denver.”

FOR THE PEOPLE



Westword

EATS has successfully fed our community through Denver’s largest food truck rally for over 10 years. However, with an eye on accessibility and inclusiveness, we began adjusting our model to ensure workforce and engagement opportunities are provided to communities who needed them most. EATS now operates on social impact.



HOW EATS IS GRUB FOR GOOD

- Supports diverse small business entrepreneurs through **6 season** scholarships
- Provides Food Access through **1,000+** meals via EATS for All
- Gives opportunities to **20+ young people** in culinary events and music through youth workforce program
- Adds environment stewardship via 3-stream waste and free water access, diverting about **14,000 water bottles** at EATS

PARTNERS

Westword



DELTA DENTAL

Barefoot PR
public relations & design with purpose

CASR



URBAN PEAK

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ACADEMY

FOR THE PEOPLE



Westword

EATS FOR ALL

Civic Center Conservancy continued to remove the cost barrier to both participate as a vendor and enjoy a meal at EATS this year. Thanks to Barefoot PR, we provided six vendor scholarships to women-owned and/or BIPOC-owned food trucks to give promising food entrepreneurs a chance at EATS. Additionally, our food access program returned, providing over **1,000 meals** to those in need.



EATS FOR ALL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

GRATEFUL PLANET FOODS
FLAVOR OF TABASCO

FRITAY HAITIAN CUISINE
KOCO STREET FOOD

VICKY'S THAI KITCHEN
QUE DESMADRE

SUSTAINABILITY AT EATS

Civic Center Conservancy continued to be a model of sustainability in Downtown Denver. Thanks to our sustainability partner, Delta Dental of Colorado, we were able to continue providing 3-stream waste disposal and access to free, clean water at Civic Center EATS. We provided about **50 gallons** of free water per EATS day. We also worked with the City's Office of Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency (CASR) to provide reusable r.Cups for EATS patrons to drink water.



PARTNERS



FOR THE PEOPLE



Westword



YOUTH WORKS LAUNCHED

After seeing a couple years of success in its flagship adult Civic Center WORKS program, the Conservancy began looking for opportunities to expand its opportunities for underserved groups to meet the needs of the park. Hearing this desire to keep going, Bank of America suggested the Conservancy look at youth programming. The Conservancy quickly identified EATS as having tremendous need and opportunity for learning and a youth program was born.

The Conservancy partnered with Youth Employment Academy and Urban Peak to produce EATS. Young people set up, tore down, and provided custodial services at EATS while getting on-the-job training in event logistics and customer service. We also partnered with Youth on Record to engage youth in booking, producing, and performing at Civic Center EATS. In its first year, **21 young individuals** participated.



Raju Patel
Bank of America Colorado President

"We applaud the Civic Center Conservancy for all the ways it supports Denver communities. The workforce program is an important initiative that helps young adults build self-confidence and gain professional experience."



PARTNERS



FOR THE PEOPLE

SPECIAL EVENTS AND MUSIC IN CIVIC CENTER

INDEPENDENCE EVE

Independence Eve welcomed our community back to Civic Center on July 3, to enjoy a magical evening with Colorado Symphony music and a spectacular fireworks show. **30,000 people** enjoyed this beloved event.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

The Conservancy partnered with AEG to provide **5 concerts** in the park over the summer, generating income we can invest in our community-centered programming.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

The vibrant spirit of Día de los Muertos illuminated Civic Center Park in November with over **10,000 people!** A resounding success, this event marked the first time that Hispanic affinity groups were able to put on a major event in Civic Center Park. Working with Viva Colorado, Civic Center Conservancy helped bring creative floats, marching bands, ballet folkloricos, artists, catrinas, Coco characters, lowriders, animals, performances, and so much more.



PARTNERS



FOR THE PEOPLE

EMPOWERING COMMUNITY

In April, over **60 community organizations** gathered for our inaugural **Community Town Hall**. We met at Su Teatro to discuss how the Conservancy could make Civic Center a more inclusive, welcoming space for organizations of all sizes and demographics. The discussion was moderated by Sakul Creative, experts in community-led programming.

These organizations told us they experienced several barriers to activating Civic Center, especially smaller community organizations that do not have the infrastructure to produce programming in public spaces and communities that have not historically felt welcome in the park. Our activations team ran with this, and the Community Activations Collaborative was born.

The **Community Activation Collaborative**, a group of 12 members representing diverse cultural sectors across our city, meets every other month to advise on diverse community engagement and programming. Members advocate for and connect the Conservancy to communities they represent to increase inclusivity in Civic Center. They provide critical feedback and thought partnership, which has led to several activations and initiatives, including Día de los Muertos and NIGHT MARKET (coming in 2024).

INAUGURAL COLLABORATIVE MEMBERS

Erin Banta, Phamaly Theater Company

Rex Fuller, The Center on Colfax/LGBT Commission

Yvonne Garcia-Bardwell, Denver Botanic Gardens

Gabrielle Hodgson, Bank of America

Kelly Holmes, Native Max Magazine/Skoden Ventures

Joanne Liu, Asian Girls Ignite

Joy Maez, US Bank, Nosotros Latinos Denver BRG

David Olguin, Auraria Higher Education Center/Latino Commission

Renee Ortiz, Eventful Productions

Rhett Shead, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance

Bruce Trujillo, Manos Sagrados

Dan Williams, Denver Parks & Recreation



FOR THE PEOPLE



HOLIDAYS IN CIVIC CENTER

For the second year in a row, Christkindlmarket and the Mile High Tree brought holiday magic to Civic Center Park, thanks to Civic Center Conservancy.

Christkindlmarket, produced by the German American Chamber of Commerce, has been in Denver for 23 years, the last four of which have been in Civic Center. This annual event brings authentic German and European holiday traditions to Denver, allowing guests to experience authentic Glühwein, Bavarian-style beers, European coffee, or hot chocolate while wandering through its market full of charming artisans. Guests were even able to watch Germanic folk tales come to life as the Christkind and the Krampus milled about the Christkindl Market crowds.

The Mile High Tree, offered by Visit Denver, is a seven-story, 110-foot-tall immersive art piece containing 60,000 LED lights. The tree features nightly free public shows choreographed to multicultural holiday music and accommodating up to 140 guests at a time for an immersive viewing experience within the tree.

These two activations, paired with the Conservancy's Great Lawn Lights and the City & County Building Lights, made Civic Center Park Denver's holiday destination.

350,000 PEOPLE VISITED THE PARK OVER THE HOLIDAY SEASON!

PARTNERS



German American
Chambers of Commerce
Deutsch-Amerikanische
Handelskammern



POWERED BY



FOR THE FUTURE

NEXT 100 CAPITAL UPDATE

In 2023, Civic Center Conservancy, with the City and County of Denver, announced the selection of Studio Gang, a world-renowned architecture and urban design firm, led by Jeanne Gang, to lead the Phase I Implementation of Civic Center Next 100, which includes improvements to the Greek Theater and Central Promenade. Denver awarded Studio Gang a \$2.8M design contract following a competitive process.

Studio Gang impressed with their project approach, rooted in a community-centered process, and respect of the park's rich history while bringing innovative architectural design. With a diverse portfolio that includes performing arts spaces like Writers Theatre in Glencoe, IL and Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival in Garrison, NY; major additions to cultural institutions like the Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education, and Innovation at the American Museum of Natural History in New York; as well as transformative public projects like Tom Lee Park in Memphis TN, and the Nature Boardwalk at Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, IL; Studio Gang brings a wealth of experience in reimagining civic and cultural spaces. Studio Gang also designed Populus, a new hotel currently under construction at 14th Street and Court Place that shows the firm's emphasis on creating connections between people and nature with its eye-catching design informed by the pattern of Aspen trees.



"We are looking forward to working closely with the city, the Conservancy, and the communities of Denver on the design for Civic Center that extends its democratic legacy and invites everyone to come together around performance," said Jeanne Gang, founding principal and partner of Studio Gang. "It is also a perfect moment to make the park's ecology resilient for its next 100 years of life."

The Civic Center Next 100 plan, funded in part by the voter approved Elevate Denver Bond Program, was created with insight provided by public feedback collected through extensive community and stakeholder engagement. The Concept Design includes improvements to four key areas within the park, including the Greek Theater, Central Promenade, Central Gathering Space, and Bannock Street between Colfax Avenue and 14th Avenue. Shovels will hit the ground on the first phase of this project in 2025.

[VIEW FINAL CONCEPT DESIGNS](#)

\$290,000 has been raised for 30% of Design and Construction for the Greek Theater Canopy. Thank you to Boettcher Foundation, Gates Foundation, and the Anschutz Foundation for launching this effort.

PARTNERS

**BOETTCHER
FOUNDATION**

**GATES
FOUNDATION**

**ANSCHUTZ
FOUNDATION**



FOR THE FUTURE



COCKTAILS IN THE PARK

On September 13, Conservancy supporters gathered in the park for a beautiful night under the stars to celebrate Civic Center Park's transformation and gear up for what's ahead. Mayor Johnston spoke about Civic Center's role in a Dynamic Denver and applauded the Conservancy for its efforts to revitalize public space through social impact, while our Executive Director, Eric Lazzari, shared that the Conservancy is only just getting started. We also honored Happy Haynes, former Denver Parks & Recreation Executive Director, for her wonderful service to Denver Parks, particularly Civic Center Park, during her tenure.



TITLE SPONSOR



CONSTRUCTION

EVENT SPONSORS



McWHINNEY

Brownstein | Hyatt
Farber | Schreck

NICK & TARA
PAVLAKOVICH



SAUNDERS



2023

IMPACT



47
PARTICIPANTS

38% EMPLOYED

1,900 HOURS

YOUTH WORKS

21

YOUTH WORKERS

600+
HOURS

37

DAYS OF EVENT PRODUCTION
& PERFORMANCES



37 DAYS OF FOOD TRUCKS

1,000
EATS FOR ALL MEALS

6 VENDOR SCHOLARSHIPS

WOMEN-OWNED AND/OR BIPOC-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURS



Presented by
amazon

803 HOURS

288 VOLUNTEERS

19 DAYS OF SERVICE

ONE
BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAIN SCENE
FOR PRIDE MONTH

2,000
POUNDS OF PRODUCE HARVESTED

AEG CONCERTS

35,000 ATTENDEES

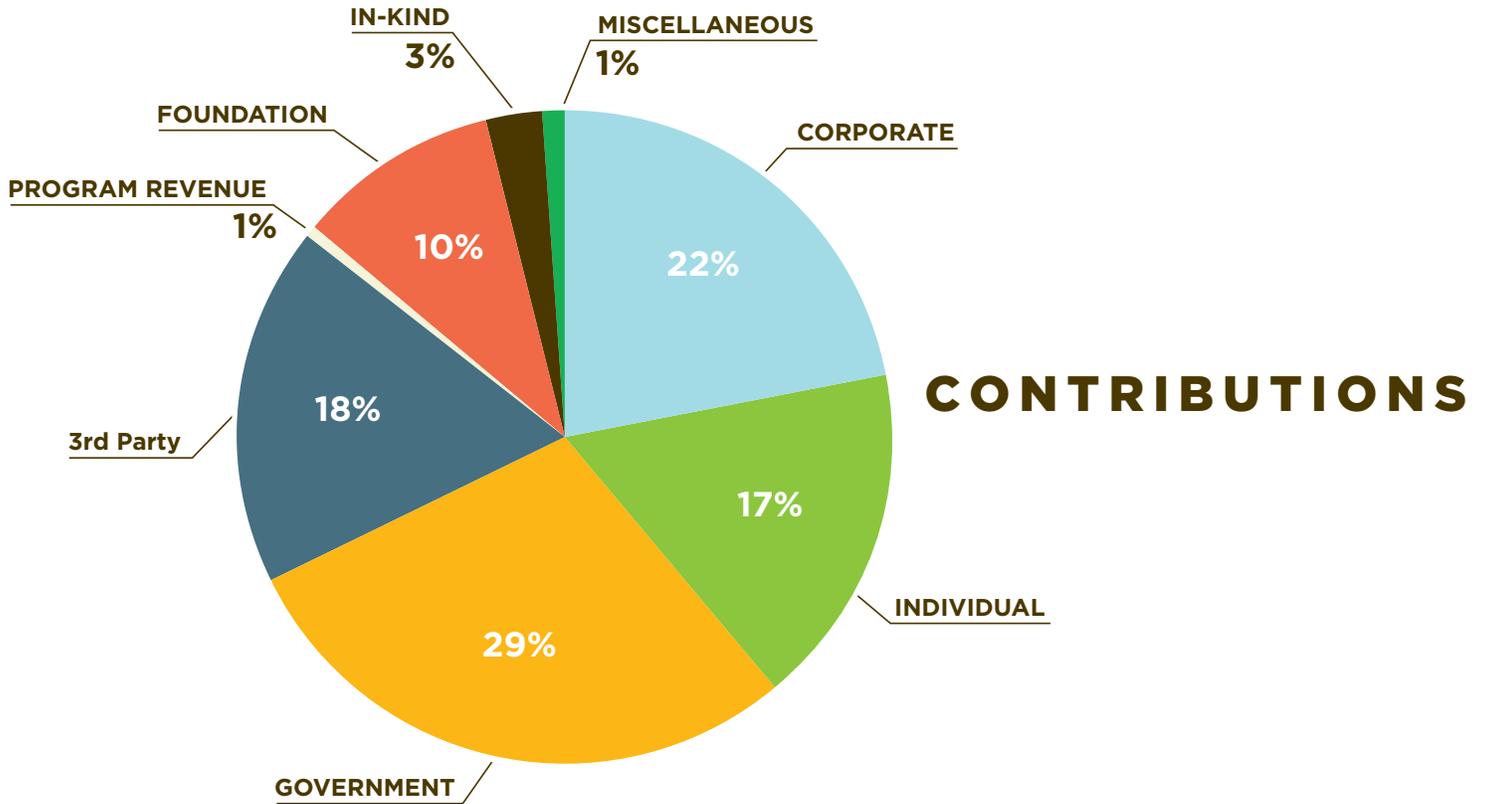
HOLIDAYS

350,000
VISITORS

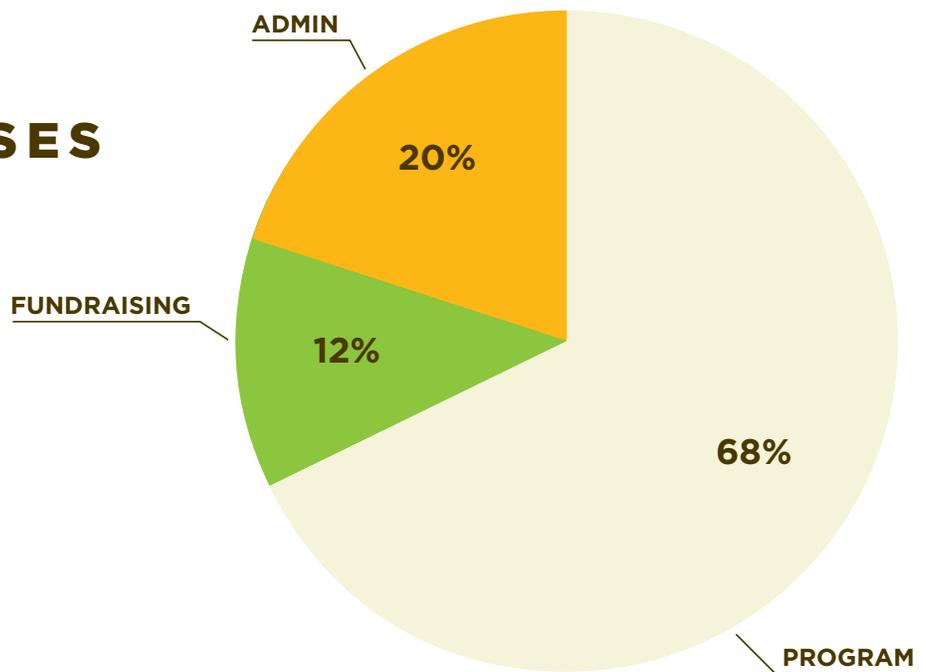
THE COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND,

a fund empowering community-building events in Civic Center Park,
supported the return of Theater in the Park and the inaugural Dia de los Muertos.

FINANCIAL REPORT



EXPENSES



2023 CONTRIBUTORS



Next 100 Partners have committed, often multi-year gifts of \$15,000+ to re-energize our treasured Denver landmark for the next 100 years.

CHAMPIONS



SUPPORTERS

east west partners





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 gifts of at least \$1,000.

Anonymous (2)	Dennis Humphries
Elaine & Richard Asarch	Nicole Jarman
Heather & Nael Ashour	Sharon Martin
Sean Bahoshy	Tom & Lisa McLagan
Ferd Belz	Jaime Moreno
Trish & Tully Bragg	Matt Neren
Mardi & Brown Cannon	Susan & Howard Noble
FloraJane & James DiRienzo	Wende Nossaman
Lindy Eichenbaum-Lent	Katie & Michael Owen
Chris & Yvette Frampton	Marcus Pachner
Harry & Susan Frampton	Peter & Kristin Park
Kourtny Garrett	Nick & Tara Pavlakovich
Danielle Glover	Victoria Sterling
John Gowen	Andrew & Sarah Stettner
Mark Heiser	Maren Stewart
Arlene & Barry Hirschfeld	Karen Trott
Matt & Sarah Hogan	Marvin Wilkenson & Art Ellsworth

2023 INSTITUTIONAL CONTRIBUTORS

\$50,000+

AEG
Anschutz Foundation
Bank of America
City & County of Denver

\$25,000-\$49,999

Delta Dental
First Bank Holding Company
Liberty Global
MDC Holdings/Richmond American Homes
PCL Construction Services, Inc.
Roy & Gloria Dinsdale Foundation
VF Foundation

\$10,000-\$24,999

Amazon
Barefoot PR
Chevron
Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines
East West Partners
German American Chamber of Commerce –
Colorado Chapter
The Turner Construction Company Foundation
Urban Villages
Verizon
Westword
Xcel Energy Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

BuildMark
Downtown Denver Partnership Inc.
Ernst & Young LLP (EY)
Maraba Fund
McWhinney
Regional Air Quality Council
Saunders Construction
Stettner Properties
Visit Denver
Zevia

\$500-\$4,999

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
CALC
Microsoft
Rose Community Foundation
Taloma Partners
The Pachner Company
UMB
Xcel

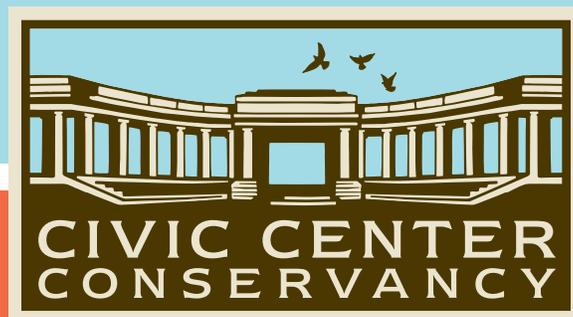
In-Kind

CBS Colorado
Cultivator Advertising & Design
Laz Parking
Westword



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
1410 GRANT ST., SUITE C108
DENVER, CO 80203