



Jefferson County
PUBLIC LIBRARY



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Kim Johnson, Chair
- Emelda Walker, Vice Chair
- Stanley Harsha, Secretary
- Pam Anderson
- Renny Fagan ^[1]
- Jill Fellman
- Charles Jones
- Jeanne Lomba ^[2]

[1] Renny Fagan joined the Board in Oct.
[2] Jeanne Lomba served through Sept.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear JCPL Stakeholders,

It is with great pride and gratitude that I present to you the 2024 Annual Report of Jefferson County Public Library (JCPL). This report reflects the collective efforts and achievements we have accomplished together over the past year.

In 2024, the JCPL team completed significant milestones and made crucial progress in realizing the vision outlined in the JCPL’s 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. From expanding our digital resources to hosting innovative programs and fostering partnerships, we have strived to meet the diverse needs of Jefferson County residents. This report highlights the impact of our initiatives, the generosity of our donors and partners and the dedication of our staff, ambassadors and volunteers.

Key highlights of our performance for the year:

- JCPL welcomed nearly two million visitors through our library doors in 2024, a 6% increase over 2023, confirming our community’s interest in the library as a ‘third place’ — a welcoming destination to engage and connect outside of home, work, or school. The increase in visits demonstrates that JCPL is meeting that need.
- Total collection use reached a historic milestone with more than 10 million circulations and use of materials across all formats. Total collection use includes physical and digital materials being checked out and renewed, as well as information accessed through our databases.
- Our programs welcomed more than 220,000 attendees, a 10% increase in program attendance compared to 2023.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to our mission to build an educated and vibrant community by providing equal access to information and opportunities.

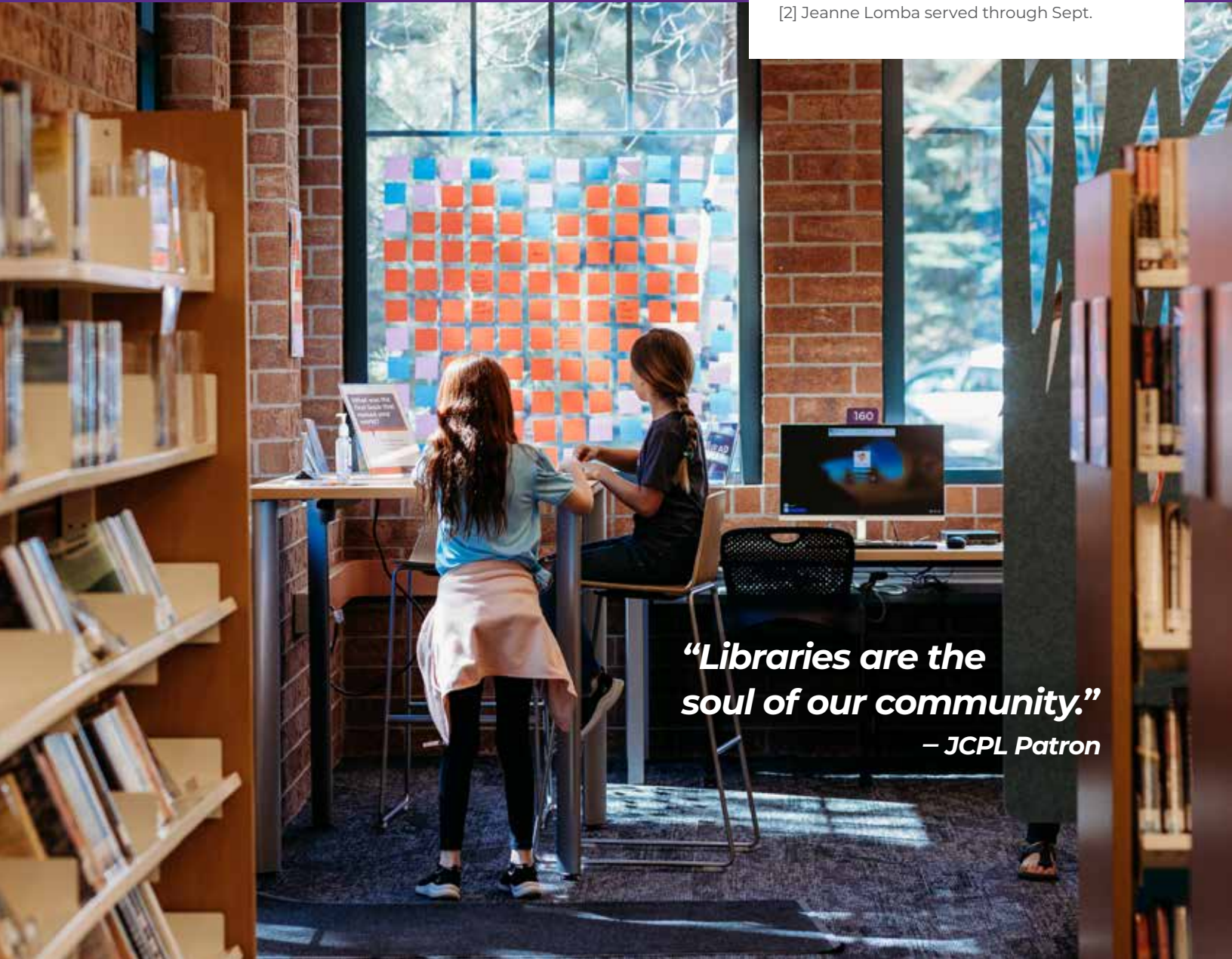
Thank you for being part of our journey. Together, we will continue to make JCPL a place where all generations come to connect, discover and create.

With gratitude,



Donna Walker

Executive Director,
Jefferson County Public Library



**“Libraries are the
soul of our community.”**
– JCPL Patron



MISSION

Jefferson County Public Library helps to build an educated and vibrant community by providing equal access to information and opportunities.

VISION

Jefferson County Public Library will be the essential destination where all generations connect, discover and create.

VALUES

We serve with care; everyone is welcome here. We meet you where you are, give you our full attention and strive to exceed your expectations.

Our Core Values are Innovation, Accountability and Excellence.

INNOVATION

We collaborate, evaluate and continually improve. We are creative and flexible. We take risks, embrace change and look for opportunities to say yes.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We are committed and honest. We participate and communicate. We take personal responsibility, provide follow-through and build trust.

EXCELLENCE

We are positive and productive. We perform with purpose to transform lives. We focus on quality, consistently aim high and deliver outstanding results.





CREATING LIBRARIES FOR THE FUTURE

Through our Service Point Development & Expansion initiative, we're expanding, redesigning and building new library spaces to provide every Jefferson County resident with convenient access to library resources and support.

SUPPORTING FUTURE GROWTH

Northwest Jeffco is rapidly expanding, with households projected to grow by 36% from 2020 to 2030. In response, JCPL purchased land in July for a destination library to meet both current and future needs of this growing area and provide convenient access to library resources for generations to come. In the Fall, JCPL conducted extensive engagement efforts, and the feedback will help guide design and construction. Find the Community Engagement Report on our Northwest Jeffco Library [project page](#).



A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS FOR SOUTH JEFFCO

JCPL renewed our search for an additional location to serve southern Jefferson County's growing library needs. In August, the Board of Trustees made a milestone decision by authorizing a purchase and sale agreement for an existing property in Littleton, bringing us one step closer to improving access to library resources for the entire community. Find the Community Engagement Report on our South County Library [project page](#).



"Love the repurposing of an existing building; good location; closer to my house; like this location much better"

— Future South County Library Patron

Learn more about our current building projects.





 **JEFFCO
HOUSEHOLDS
WITH A
LIBRARY CARD**
60%

REDESIGNING ARVADA LIBRARY

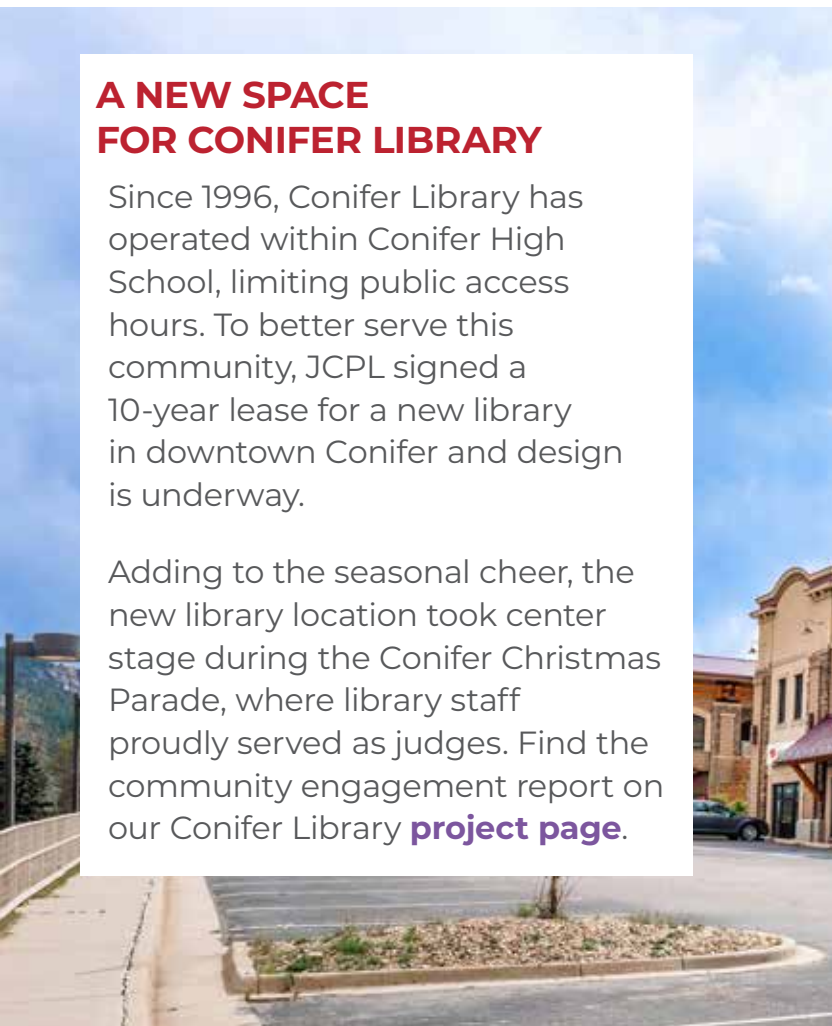
Arvada population growth continues to outpace the county, driving a 66% increase in library program attendance since 2022. To meet growing demands and address emerging concerns, JCPL embarked on a library redesign. July 2024 community engagement efforts provided feedback to help guide the redesign effort. Find the community engagement report on our Arvada Library Redesign [project page](#).

We are excited to enhance the library to meet needs and serve as a vibrant community hub for future generations to create, discover and connect.



A NEW HOLDS LOCKER IN WEST LAKEWOOD

JCPL rolled out the Green Mountain Holds Locker in West Lakewood in early 2024, expanding access to library materials at all hours and during Library closures. It quickly became our busiest and most-visited locker, with 8,441 visits and 29,669 items circulated throughout the year! We now provide 24/7 access to holds materials at 11 locations, with plans to install another in early 2025.



A NEW SPACE FOR CONIFER LIBRARY

Since 1996, Conifer Library has operated within Conifer High School, limiting public access hours. To better serve this community, JCPL signed a 10-year lease for a new library in downtown Conifer and design is underway.

Adding to the seasonal cheer, the new library location took center stage during the Conifer Christmas Parade, where library staff proudly served as judges. Find the community engagement report on our Conifer Library [project page](#).



LIBRARY REMODEL FOR EVERGREEN

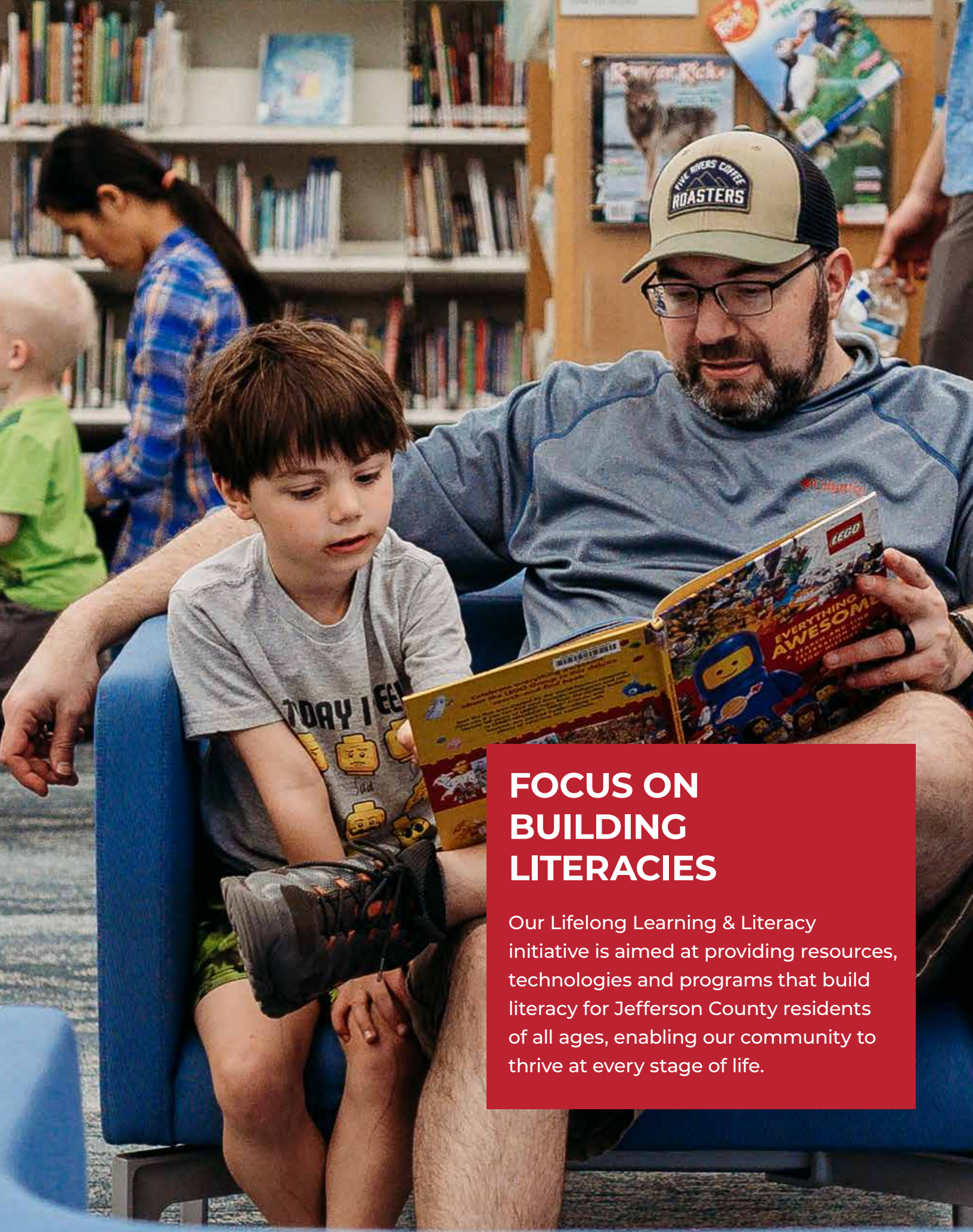
In April, JCPL reopened the Evergreen Library after a much-anticipated renovation. We improved service levels, retained the quiet reading room and fireplace, used natural materials and emphasized views. The result was a cozy, comfortable and welcoming space!

 **37,266
NEW JCPL
CARDHOLDERS
IN 2024**



“Thank you for the newly remodeled Evergreen Library! I now have a place to study with my friends after school!”

– Evergreen Library Teen Patron



FOCUS ON BUILDING LITERACIES

Our Lifelong Learning & Literacy initiative is aimed at providing resources, technologies and programs that build literacy for Jefferson County residents of all ages, enabling our community to thrive at every stage of life.

"There were so many fun activities at this event, much more than we expected!"
— JCPL Patron



ALL ABOARD FOR EARLY LITERACY

In September, we chugged our way to the Colorado Railroad Museum for our annual Raise A Reader Festival, packed with train rides, Story Times, dance parties and more. We shared fun ways for kids to get ready to read and provided resources to help families build early literacy skills to 1,693 event attendees. According to participating parents, 88% learned something new to share with their children, 87% became more aware of library resources and services, 83% planned to spend more time interacting with their kids and 82% felt more confident in helping their children learn. It was a day full of fun, impact and learning, all rolled into one!

POWERING JEFFCO TO DIGITAL LITERACY

We empowered Jefferson County residents with digital literacy through our PowerOn Jeffco program. In partnership with Jeffco Public Schools and The Action Center, we provided six weeks of basic digital literacy classes, along with free laptops and a year of internet access, to over 400 qualified community members. In October, this program earned JCPL recognition as one of Colorado's 2024 Organization Digital Inclusion Champions. This designation is awarded to organizations that have impacted their communities through their dedication to digital equity work. With 90% of participants reporting increased confidence and knowledge in using digital resources, we're proud to have made a meaningful, lasting impact on our community.





IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES

As the legendary Dolly Parton wisely said, “You can never get enough books into the hands of children.” Inspired by her vision to help more children Dream More, Learn More, Care More, Be More™, JCPL committed to funding Imagination Library Colorado with \$10,000 annually from 2024 to 2028. Made possible by the Metropolitan Football Stadium District funds awarded by the County Commissioners, the 2024 contribution provided 9,090 books to Jefferson County kids, sparking imaginations and fostering a love of reading for years to come.



173,594
COMPUTER USE
HOURS IN 2024

DIGITAL ACCESS FOR ALL

We believe information and technology should be accessible to everyone. To provide inclusive software and tools for patrons, JCPL rolled out Assistive Technology and Digitization Workstations to four additional locations. These stations offer an array of digital editing resources and assistive technologies, such as ZoomText screen magnification, Dragon speech recognition, dyslexic reading help and more, all designed to empower users in their digital ventures.



UNLEASHING CREATIVITY

At JCPL, we strive to ALWAYS BE creating! In March, we opened the Belmar Create Space, a dynamic makerspace where community members can bring their creative visions to life. With equipment for laser cutting, 3D printing, audio recording and more, the technology you need to fuel your innovation is more accessible than ever — the possibilities are endless!

To celebrate, we hosted 11 open lab events as part of our Creative Technology Maker series. Held at both the Columbine Library Open Space Lab and the Belmar Library Create Space, these hands-on events gave both families and adult learners the chance to explore the equipment, expand their knowledge and dive into creative technology.



JEFFCO READS

In June, we partnered with Jeffco Public Schools on their free summer literacy program, Jeffco READS (formerly JSELs). Our team served over 800 rising kindergarteners, first- and second-graders, newcomer students and Extended School Year children. JCPL librarians visited nine schools twice, reading stories, sharing library resources and distributing Summer Challenge prizes. Volunteers served as “book wranglers” to help students select their prize books – always a big decision! Jeffco READs also reached newly arrived immigrants participating in adult literacy classes at select schools, providing dozens of library cards and connecting them to library resources in Spanish.



REACH MORE PEOPLE

Through our Excellence in Customer Service and Building Inclusive Community initiatives, we're transforming the way we serve and connect with our community, working to create a radically welcoming environment where all members of our community feel valued and empowered.



EXPANDING ACCESS

To better serve the community, the Express Library West Arvada expanded its hours and is now open 5 a.m. – 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 5 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Sundays. This extension made a big impact, driving a 31% increase in visits and a 12% increase in checkouts, making it easier for everyone to access the resources they need, whenever they need them.

MORE THAN ONE MILLION

In 2024, we achieved over one million checkouts on OverDrive/Libby. From e-books and audiobooks to e-magazines, this achievement showcases how much our community loves to read. With every digital page turned, we're proud to be fueling reading habits, anytime, anywhere.



7,970
NUMBER OF
PROGRAMS IN 2024

JEFFCO LOVE

We love to involve and engage our community! From the festive fun of our annual Gingerbread House Contest and Halloween Parade to special months honoring diverse groups, such as Hispanic Heritage Month and Black History Month, our libraries have remained welcoming spaces where everyone can connect, celebrate and feel at home!





FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR STUDENTS

Each year, the Action Center helps nearly 5,000 children in Jefferson County start the school year right by providing students in need with a bag of new school supplies and a new backpack. The three-day distribution event was held in August at Everitt Middle School. JCPL took part in the fun-filled event, issuing 600 new library cards and sharing information about our resources and robust services with students and families.



LIBRARY CARDS FOR EVERYONE

In December, we launched the JCPL Digital Library Card, enhancing accessibility with a streamlined, user-friendly application. The platform removes barriers and improves the user experience by verifying user information in real time, authenticating identity, checking existing accounts and assigning the appropriate card type. This initiative has significantly expanded library access and fostered inclusivity for community members. As a result, we have issued 2,624 Digital Library Cards, increasing connectivity across our community.



CELEBRATING PRIDE, THE JCPL WAY

June was a time to promote inclusivity and acceptance by celebrating LGBTQIA+ history, culture and identity. The Library, as a pillar of the community and champions of inclusion, curated programs to encourage learning, discovery and connection for all! We ran Pride activities at all locations, tailored to different age groups. These programs allowed families to introduce themes of identity and self-celebration through age-appropriate activities for kids, safe spaces for teens to share and discover and opportunities for adults to create community through the common language of music.



MAKING DIGITAL ASSETS ACCESSIBLE BY ALL

Last year, Colorado took the lead as the first state in the U.S. to legally mandate website and digital service accessibility for state and local governments. As part of JCPL's ongoing efforts to meet our community where they are and our vision to be an essential destination for all, we are committed to making library digital resources as accessible as possible, from our buildings and programs to our digital services.

Download the MYJCPL app and access JCPL resources anywhere, anytime.

Scan here to learn more and download the app.





AN EVENING WITH JACQUELINE WOODSON

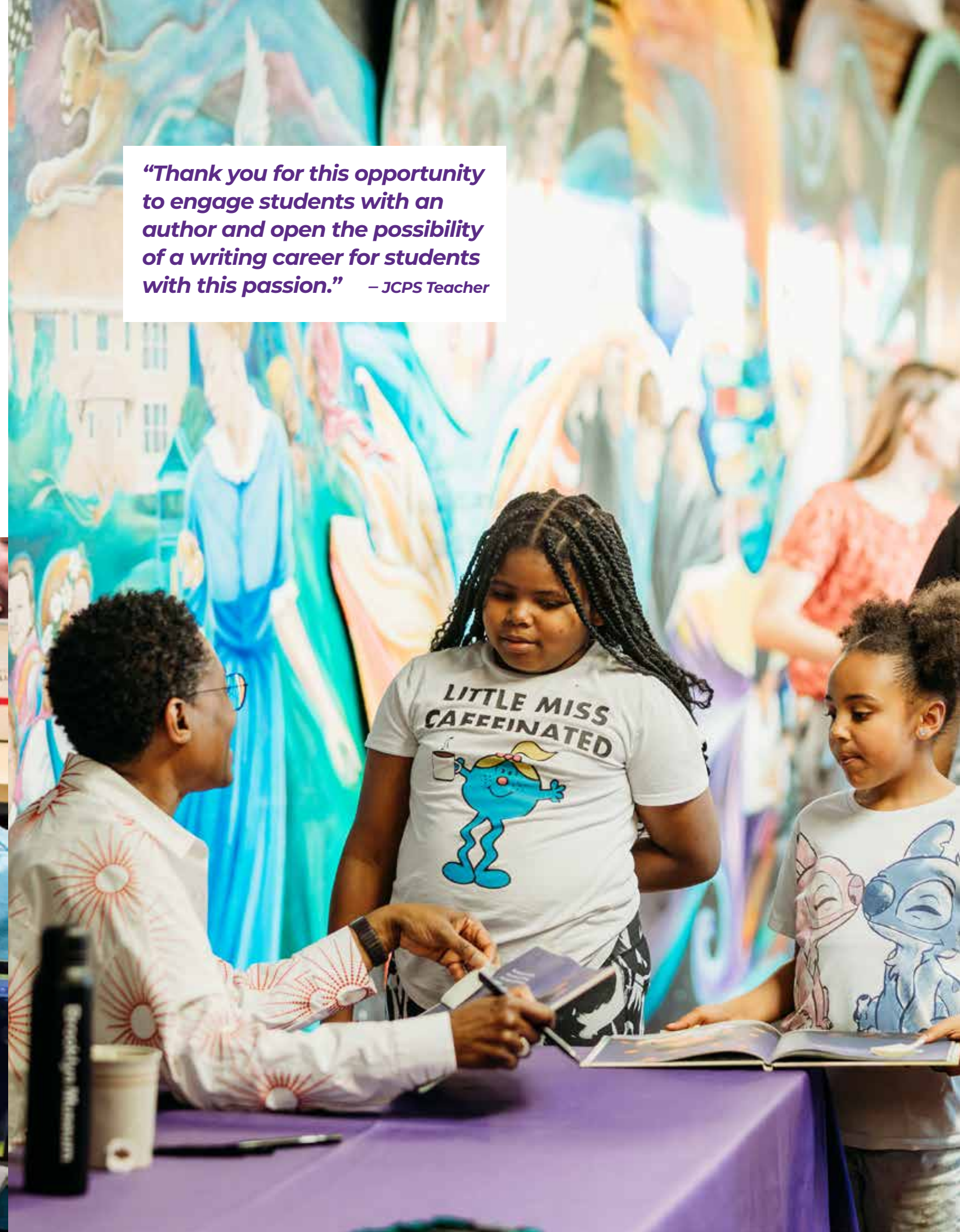
In spring, celebrated author Jacqueline Woodson captivated audiences with her inspiring journey from imaginative childhood beginnings to literary stardom. Hosted at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School, the event featured an interactive Q&A led by local students, giving the community a unique opportunity to personally connect with Woodson's story.

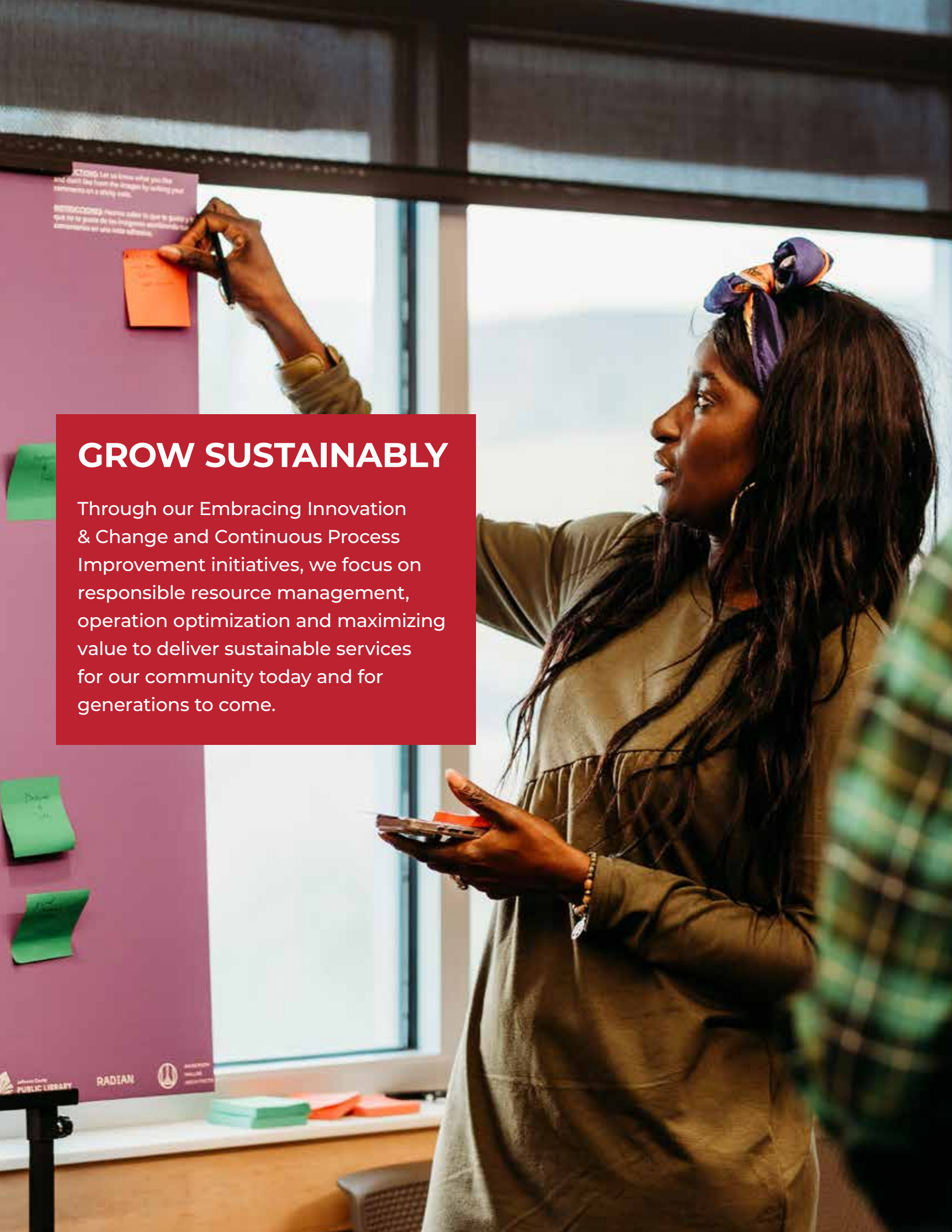
"Thank you for this opportunity to engage students with an author and open the possibility of a writing career for students with this passion." – JCPS Teacher



SUMMER READING: WHERE ADVENTURE BEGINS!

In summer, we dove into a world of adventure, imagination, discovery and exploration. More than 26,000 patrons of all ages joined us for a season filled with captivating books, exciting events and fun activities. The teen writing contest, a top favorite, received 49 entries from youth around the county, with stories ranging from the fairy realm to the Wild West to a colony of rabbits living in the woods.





GROW SUSTAINABLY

Through our Embracing Innovation & Change and Continuous Process Improvement initiatives, we focus on responsible resource management, operation optimization and maximizing value to deliver sustainable services for our community today and for generations to come.

GREENER TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS AT JCPL

We end 2024 with more sustainable patron services than ever before! Through grant funding and reimbursement, we have been able to successfully open Electronic Vehicle Charging Ports at Belmar and Evergreen Libraries, with more to be unveiled in 2025.



CREATING LASTING LEGACIES

Our team worked to increase funding from philanthropic sources to support library programs, projects and services for all generations to connect, discover and create. These efforts resulted in \$75,799 of revenue this year.

STREAMLINING RECORDS REQUESTS

To improve accessibility, ease of use and alignment with the Jefferson County records request process, we've updated our Colorado Open Records Request web page and rolled out an online request form that can be submitted electronically. The updated web page reflects current information and fees, along with a link to the digital form. We're pleased to offer this streamlined process to our community!



NEW DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

To standardize how JCPL stores and manages organizational documents, we rolled out a centralized internal document management system in 2024. This important asset streamlines information storage and access and contributes to continuity of operations.



TOMORROW'S PLANNING STARTS TODAY

Our work is informed by feedback from our community members. Last year, we connected with the public and key stakeholders to understand community needs, priorities and trends as we embark on developing a 2026+ Strategic Plan for the next phase of the library. We look forward to refreshing our vision, mission and goals to better serve Jeffco. The strategic planning process will continue until the end of 2025.



BE THE THIRD PLACE

Whether you're seeking inspiration, connection or a place to unwind, we strive to make every visit an experience that truly matters.

TURNING PAGES, WALKING PATHS

In November, the Standley Lake Library became home to a brand-new trailhead. Featuring a central gathering area, shade shelter, covered seating, and xeric and native plants, the Standley Lake Library Trailhead is the first in Arvada to directly connect to the Rocky Mountain Greenway.



CONVENIENT CONNECTIONS

JCPL is reaching more people through innovative programs that allow Jefferson County residents to check out and take home Wi-Fi hotspots and Wi-Fi enabled Chromebooks! Hotspots can be checked out for seven days, and Chromebooks can be checked out for 60 days. The Chromebooks are provided in partnership with Jeffco's Business and Workforce Center. JCPL also has laptops that can be reserved and used in the Arvada, Belmar, Columbine, Golden, Edgewater, Evergreen and Lakewood libraries.



 **495 CHROMEBOOK CHECKOUTS**

TEAM TEEN

This year recorded a significant growth in Summer Challenge volunteer participation, with 282 teens logging 4,382 service hours in June and July — a 59% increase in number of teen volunteers and 51% increase in service hours from last year. Additionally, JCPL piloted a new drop-in teen volunteer program, which removed many traditional barriers from youth volunteerism. A total of 137 teens participated in drop-in volunteer programs.

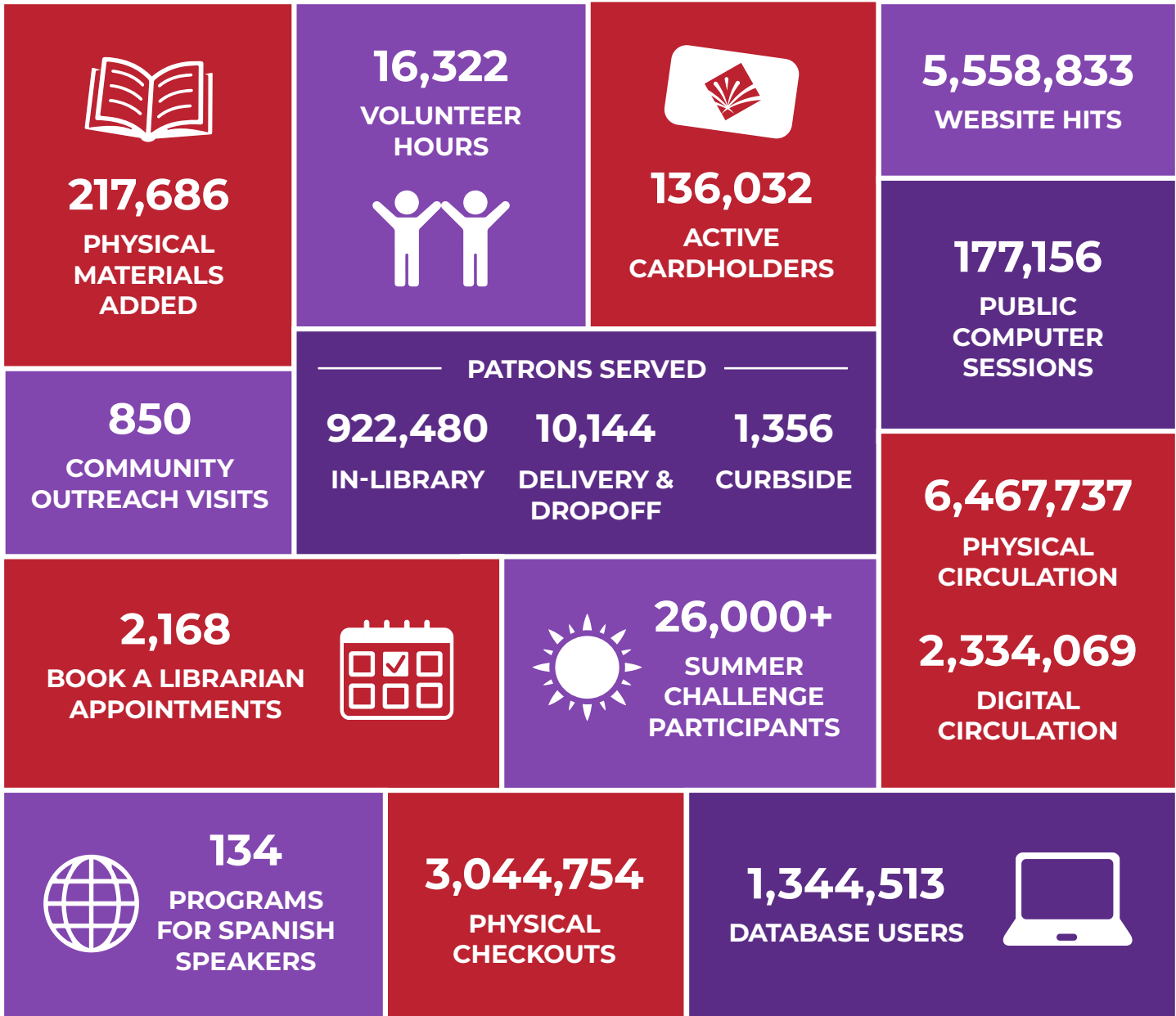


"As a Teen Advisory Board Member, I have helped successfully run and plan so many teen events that truly create a safe space for locals!"
— JCPL Teen Volunteer



LIBRARIANS AT YOUR SERVICE

Our Book a Librarian service allows patrons to schedule a one-on-one appointment with a librarian for up to one hour of uninterrupted, personalized help with a variety of needs, including business or nonprofit support, computer and mobile device assistance, e-books and e-readers, job searches, research and more. In 2024, our team completed more than 2,100 Book a Librarian appointments.



2024 SCORECARD

Success measures and targets guide JCPL’s strategic planning with our Board of Trustees and Library leadership, as well as help the Library identify community demands and our ability to meet that demand.

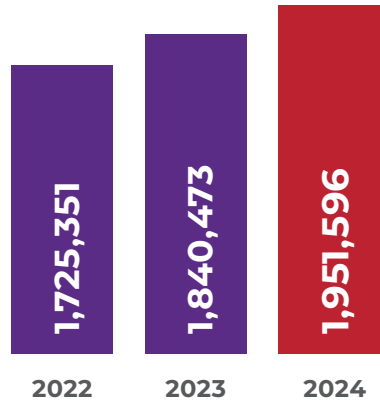
TOTAL COLLECTION USE

Total number of materials (both physical, digital, borrowed or used) and database use at Jefferson County Public Library.



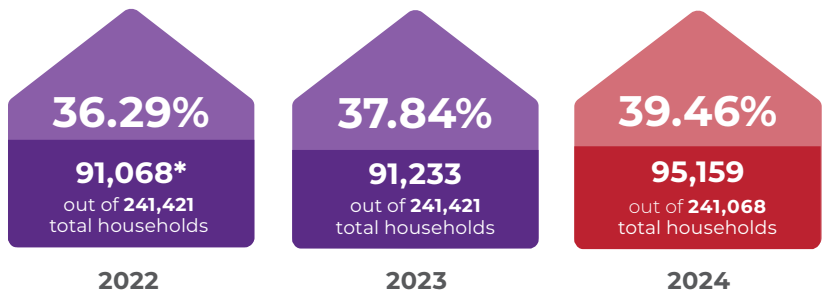
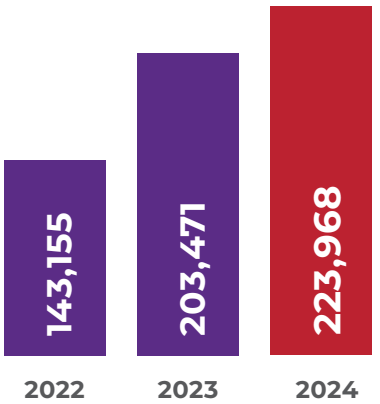
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

Total number of attendees at any of Jefferson County Public Library’s programs.



VISITS

Total number of visits to Jefferson County Public Library and the Bookmobile.



ACTIVE HOUSEHOLDS

Jefferson County households that contain at least one active cardholder within the past 12 months.

*In 2022, JCPL changed its measures related to active household use. The more precise definition resulted in expected decreases in these KPIs as we set a new benchmark.

NET PROMOTER SCORE

An index ranging from -100 to 100 that measures the likelihood that a Jefferson County Public Library cardholder will recommend our libraries to others based on a single question.

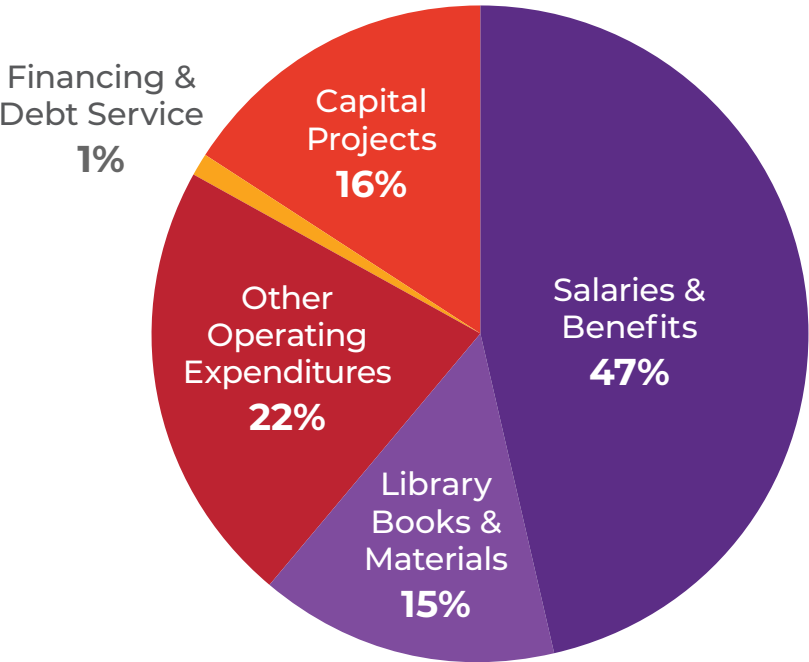


FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	2023 Actual	2024 Amended Budget	2024 Actual
Revenues – Taxes	\$50,731,594	\$56,936,719	\$61,247,504
Revenues – Other	\$4,415,021	\$3,002,093	\$5,505,989*
Total Revenue	\$55,146,616	\$59,938,812	\$66,753,493
Salaries and Benefits	\$22,837,059	\$25,014,561	\$24,718,695
Books and Other Materials	\$7,945,664	\$9,264,817	\$7,784,002
Other Operating	\$9,811,640	\$11,193,807	\$11,643,491
Total Operating Expenditures	\$40,594,363	\$45,473,185	\$44,146,188
Debt Service	\$621,745	\$623,700	\$623,700
Capital Expenditures	\$3,773,828	\$32,396,567	\$8,357,854
Total Uses of Funds	\$44,989,936	\$78,493,452	\$53,127,742

*This number includes \$129,000 of GR accrual not yet fully approved in WD

2024 EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN*



*Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100%.



STRONGER TOGETHER: TEAM JCPL

Our greatest assets are our people. Team JCPL continued to be champions of literacy and empowerment. From shelving books to instilling a love of reading in our patrons; from fun events such as Raise A Reader to practical Library To You services, each of your efforts has a long-lasting impact on the individuals we serve. Through these efforts, we reach more people, offering patrons of all backgrounds, ages and interests a sense of belonging and access to materials and resources.

JCPL’s efforts were commended at the 2024 CALCON where three staff were awarded the Jean Maio Award for Excellence in Adult Literacy.

EMPLOYEES VOTE FOR A UNION

In March 2024, JCPL employees included in the collective bargaining unit chose the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) as their exclusive representative. JCPL and AFSCME are in the process of negotiating our first Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).



SUPPORT JCPL & MAKE A LASTING IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY

Sponsorships and donations play a crucial role in allowing JCPL to provide high-quality programs and services to the Jefferson County community. The generosity of JCPL donors, sponsors and volunteers helps us continue to deliver valuable resources that enrich the lives of our patrons.

Want to make a difference?
Your support can create
meaningful impact and build
a stronger, more vibrant JCPL.

Every contribution counts!
Visit [coloradogives.org/
donate/jeffcolibrary](https://coloradogives.org/donate/jeffcolibrary)
to become a donor.





“The library is a place where the ‘world of information’ can be explored and the enjoyment of reading can be fulfilled.”

– JCPL Patron



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