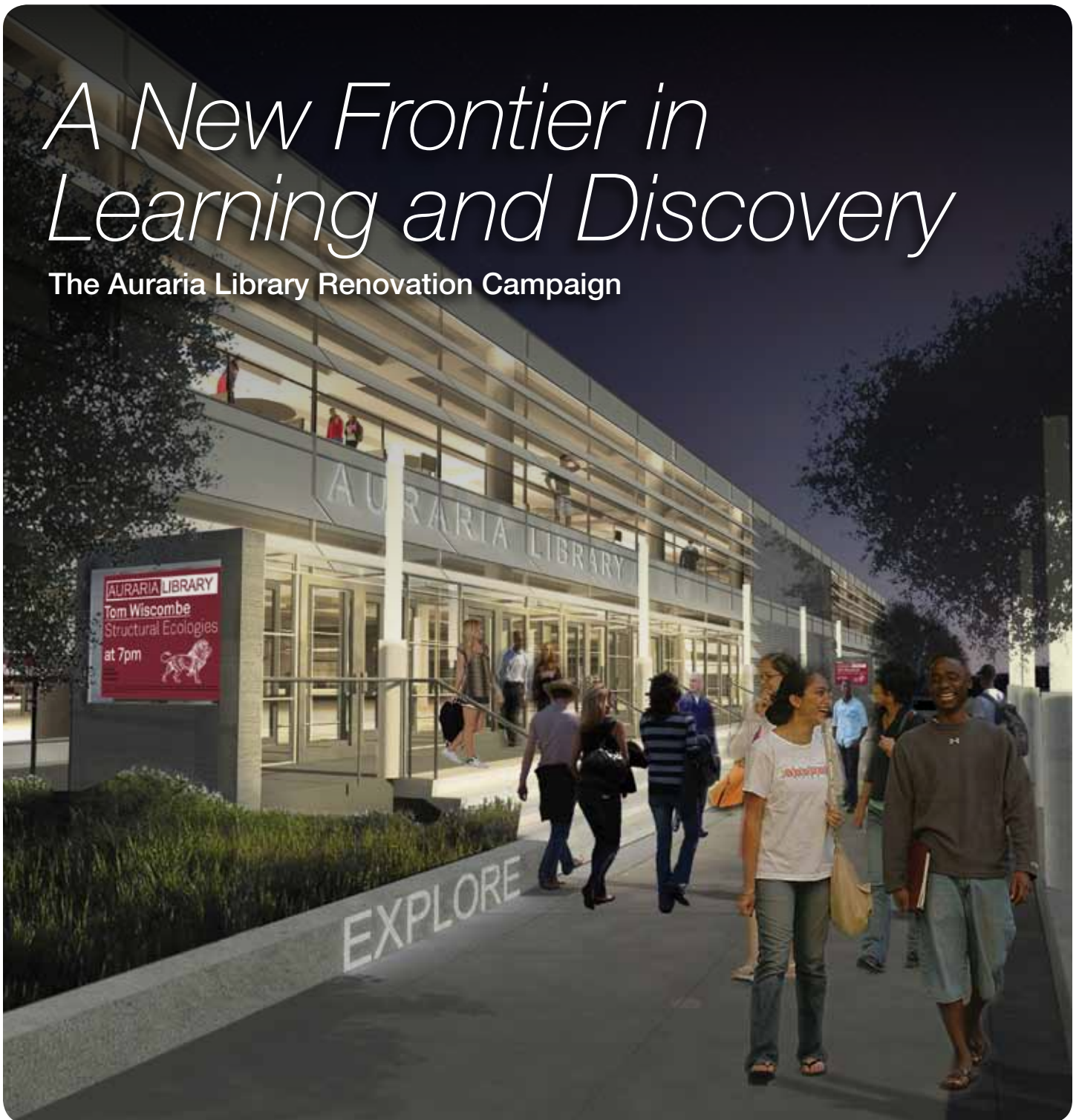


Creating Futures

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER
METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF DENVER

A New Frontier in Learning and Discovery

The Auraria Library Renovation Campaign





Join us in redefining how learning and discovery happen.

Auraria Library is accustomed to being on the cutting edge. The only tri-institutional academic library in the nation, it serves the students, faculty and staff of three leading urban institutions:

- University of Colorado Denver
- Metropolitan State University of Denver
- Community College of Denver

Open to the public, it also supports the research interests and lifelong learning of the entire Rocky Mountain region.

Auraria Library is a library of and for the people, acting as a bridge between the diverse populations of the Auraria Campus, the broader community and the world of learning, exploration and discovery.

The time for Auraria Library to embark on a new voyage of invention is now.

Demand for its services is increasing and the education and workforce landscapes are undergoing dramatic shifts. When

the library first opened in 1976, it was designed to serve a maximum of 15,000 students. Today, it is the intellectual home of nearly 50,000 students in the same 180,000-square-foot space. One million visitors enter Auraria Library each year. Weekly, 25,000 people walk through the front door, up 23 percent from just four years ago.

Not only is Auraria Library required to serve more people, it also must operate in an entirely new context. The nature and technology of information exchange and knowledge production has evolved. A more flexible deployment of the building is essential if Auraria Library is to meet the needs of today's and tomorrow's students.

The renovation of the Auraria Library will transform the very idea of the term "library." It will create a physical and intellectual space specifically designed to support exploration and creativity and to serve a growing audience.

We invite you to explore with us as we begin to create a state-of-the-art learning institution for the future.

Collaboration and new technologies have changed the way we learn and work.

Today's students, just like today's workers, operate very differently than those of even ten years ago. Collaboration is the name of the game. A new generation of "social learners" is demanding a different kind of library.

Auraria Library asked students what they needed from their library and the answers came back loud and clear: "more room to study together" and "access to technology." So in early 2011, the library conducted an experiment. Stacks and collections were moved out of an entire section of the library and replaced with tables and chairs. The response was immediate and overwhelming. That space is now filled daily with hundreds of students working together in small groups.

When you visit this space, be forewarned. This is not like the libraries we used to know! It is lively and animated and the information flows not just from books but also from skeletal models, iPad checkouts, mobile white boards and dialogue.

Other than the designated quiet space on the second floor, conversation and collaboration are encouraged.

There is no limit to what these students can learn about themselves and their world... together.

A key component in this learning potential is the revolution in digital resources and online courses. Rapid changes in information and communication technology, especially the growth of the Internet, have made it possible to discover information in virtual, as well as physical, space. Time formerly spent searching for authoritative sources can now be invested in evaluating and interpreting information.

"Witnessing other people learning is a visual reassurance that there are a lot of us out there trying to do something great."

— Student, Community College of Denver

The combination of these two factors—collaboration and technology—call for a major overhaul in how we think about and use the Auraria Library space.



A smart-growth strategy will preserve the treasured Auraria Library building while enhancing student success.

The Auraria Library building was designed by world-famous architect Helmut Jahn and received the 1978 Excellence-in-Design Award from the Chicago Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. In recognition of its continuing design merit, the Auraria Library received the Twenty-Five Year award from the Denver Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 2009. The Auraria Library renovation will build upon the foresight of the original vision, while repurposing the use of the space for a changing world.

Flexibility is the guiding tenet in the renovation process. Humphries Poli Architects have facilitated a conversation among key stakeholders to rethink, recast and recreate the heart of the Auraria Campus. The result is a more functional application of the space to advance collaboration activities and technology usage.



A new, expanded **Café/Event Space** at the northwest corner will attract students from the main campus crossroads and provide flexible space for study and special events.



Individual study and book stacks will be primarily located on the second floor and serve as a place of independent research and reflection.



Patrons will enter from either the north or west and find themselves in a **Main Street Zone** that offers clear pathways for improved navigability. A central service desk at the intersection will enable students to get answers to a variety of questions, check out resources, and obtain research assistance. There will also be self-service areas including self-check, self-return and a discovery kiosk.



A variety of **“micro-environments”** on the first floor will support our students’ desire to engage in active learning via more open spaces, study rooms, lower shelving and mobile furniture.



Enhanced **amenities** will include improved way-finding, upgraded acoustics and additional restrooms.

A **Skylight Courtyard** will expand usable space by covering one of the existing courtyards with a skylight, resulting in a two-story atrium, inviting natural light.



A **New North Entrance** will increase the library’s presence on the Lawrence Street pedestrian mall.



In keeping with the Auraria Campus’ dedication to sustainability, the entire renovation project is guided by green building practices including the reuse and refinishing of furniture and installation of energy-efficient lighting.

The decision to renovate, rather than build a new Auraria Library, is extremely economical as well as environmentally sound. As originally proposed, a new building would cost an estimated \$160 million. Repurposing this building with a budget of \$36 million not only preserves an architectural treasure, it also creates a solution to a pressing need at a fraction of the potential cost.

“The Auraria Library building is a jewel: an important building in the American architectural landscape. By using Helmut Jahn’s original vision as a launching point and recasting the Auraria Library in contemporary terms, we have a unique opportunity to create the quintessential learning space of the 21st century.”

*– Dennis Humphries
Principal, Humphries Poli Architects*

Center for Colorado & the West at Auraria Library



The Auraria Library renovation provides an exciting opportunity to create a physical space for the Center for Colorado & the West at Auraria Library. Founded in 2009, the Center provides original resources and unique perspectives on Rocky Mountain history and is an important partner to the Denver Public Library and History Colorado.

The Center's signature approach engages Auraria Campus students in conducting investigations and developing educational content that interprets, preserves and celebrates Colorado's exciting past. Their tools are public history, digital media, instructional design, architectural preservation and graphic design. Multi-year grant awards have funded digital social studies content for K-12 classrooms around the state.

In short, the Center for Colorado & the West at Auraria Library preserves history while training those who will continue to preserve it and engaging the young people who will create new futures for our state.

A new, physical space will make these invaluable resources available in an interactive setting that celebrates diverse cultures and explores the challenges and successes of governance, education, transportation, entertainment, health and communication.

“Through the Center for Colorado & the West at Auraria Library, students digitize and preserve historic photographic images and create video documentaries that serve as unique historical interpretations. This work builds a bridge between the Auraria Library as a knowledge repository to a vibrant center of knowledge creation.”

– Mary M. Somerville, Director/University Librarian, Auraria Library

An investment in Auraria Campus students will yield significant returns.

As our nation strives for greater sustainability and self-sufficiency, the students at Auraria Campus are already on the right track. They are a diverse, hardworking group, and often have full-time jobs and families. Many are in their mid- to upper 20s and are first-generation college students. Auraria Campus students are motivated and ready to work toward positive change for our city, state and nation. We are fortunate that 76 percent of them stay in the Denver Metro area after graduation.

Auraria Library can and must be prepared to meet the needs of these students where they are today and facilitate their life long learning journey into the future.

“At FirstBank, we regard Auraria Campus students as a top recruitment priority. They are highly motivated and come to us ready to work in a team environment. We know the Auraria Library is an important part of preparing these students for collaborative and innovative careers.”

– Dave Baker, Chief Operating Officer, FirstBank

With one gift, you can unleash the potential of 50,000 students.

Once this renovation is complete, students will find within the Auraria Library the best possible physical and intellectual space to achieve their potential and prepare to be contributors to our community.

The opportunity to leverage your philanthropic investment has never been greater. The total cost to renovate the Auraria Library will be \$36 million. The state of Colorado will provide a significant portion of the funds. We are now seeking private donations to demonstrate community support and help bring the vision for Auraria Library to fruition.

Please consider a gift to the Auraria Library Renovation Campaign.

Your contribution will help build a new and innovative infrastructure for learning within three urban institutions that together serve a diverse population of inspired individuals who represent the future of the Rocky Mountain region. And it preserves and enhances an architectural treasure.

Niraj Chaudhary has experienced all that Auraria Library has to offer. He came to the Community College of Denver from Nepal. He went on to Metropolitan State University of Denver and is now enrolled in the MBA program at University of Colorado Denver. Niraj is also an employee of Auraria Library, beginning as a student worker and advancing to a managerial position. “They say that America is the land of opportunity,” says Niraj. “For me, Auraria Library gave me both academic and financial opportunities.”





For more information,
please contact:

Mary M. Somerville, MLS, PhD

University Librarian/Director
Auraria Library
1100 Lawrence Street
Denver, CO 80204
303-556-4587
mary.somerville@ucdenver.edu

cufund.org



Come explore with us.

The newly renovated Auraria Library will be dedicated to and designed for the explorer within each of us. It will foster collaborative learning and technology usage to forge new frontiers.

“The Auraria Library had me from ‘hello.’ The first time I visited the library, I was overcome by the vibrancy and energy that the library displayed. Books, internet, media—all on a campus with the most diverse student body in Colorado. Young, old, multi-ethnic—it’s the most exciting place! I am supporting the Auraria Library Renovation Campaign to help meet the needs of a growing and transforming population of learners. They are, after all, our future.”

– Rebecca Benes, Donor



Conceptual renderings by Humphries Poli Architects.

All gifts should be payable to the University of Colorado Foundation, Auraria Library Construction and Renovation Fund.

July 2012 | JP | UCD12036