

**FOR THE PARK**

**FOR THE PEOPLE**

**FOR THE FUTURE**



**2024 ANNUAL REPORT**







## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

As I look back on another year for the Civic Center Conservancy, I'm really proud of how far we've come. It's been almost 20 years since I joined this amazing organization, and it's been great to watch the organization find its niche. Over the past year, we've locked in how we can best support Civic Center Park—and it all comes down to partnerships. By teaming up with some incredible organizations, we've been able to meet the park's needs while making a real impact for vulnerable groups in our city. And the park is at its strongest!

We've got a lot to celebrate this year—from giving work opportunities to youth to helping improve food access, caring for the environment, bringing even more vibrant cultural events to life, and moving the park's transformative projects to 30% design with one of the best architects on the planet. The best part? We've been able to do all of this by empowering our partners to do what they do best, which means we're able to do more with less. It's a business model that works, and it's making a difference every day. It's crazy to think that a team of just five people could help drive so much, but here they are, making it happen.

I'm truly excited for what's next. Civic Center Park is thriving, and we're just getting started. Together with our partners, donors, and stewards, we'll continue to keep this place active, welcoming, and inclusive for everyone. The future is looking bright, and I can't wait to see where we go from here.

Chris Frampton, Chairperson





## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What an incredible year it's been for the Civic Center Conservancy! As I reflect on 2024, I'm filled with gratitude for the progress we've made and the incredible collaborations that have come to life in Civic Center Park. This year has truly been one of growth and excitement, as we've continued to bring our vision to life with the help of our community, partners, and supporters. One standout moment was welcoming architect Jeanne Gang to Civic Center Park to connect with our most committed supporters at our signature event Cocktails in the Park, along with Mayor Johnston and Governor Polis. It was an inspiring experience that reinforced the importance of collaboration as we work toward a transformative future for the park.

We also made significant strides with our capital projects, moving them to the 30% design phase in partnership with the City and County of Denver. This is an important milestone in our journey, and we're thrilled to be one step closer to realizing our long-term vision for the park. A big part of what makes this work so special is our dedicated team. This year, I've watched our staff empower the community in new and exciting ways, helping us bring the park to life through vibrant cultural events and dynamic programming.

Seeing events like Día de los Muertos, NIGHT MARKET, and AAPI Culture Fest unfold in the park was a reminder of the incredible energy and diversity of our city. And the success of STARGAZE, our new astronomy tour, has been a wonderful addition to our programming, offering a fresh and inspiring experience for our visitors. It's been an amazing year, and I couldn't be more excited for what's next as we continue to build something truly great together.

Eric Lazzari, Executive Director

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chris Frampton, East West Partners, Chair  
Matt Neren, Cultivator Advertising & Design, Treasurer  
Heather Ashour, Crusoe, Secretary  
Sean Bahoshy, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP  
Trish Bragg, LIV Sotheby's International Realty  
Nina Casanova, UC Health  
Jonathan Coleman, Janus Henderson  
FloraJane DiRienzo, Biennial of the Americas  
Kourtney Garrett, Downtown Denver Partnership  
Charles Gilford, Inner City Health  
Danielle Glover, CRL Associates  
Nicole Isenberg, Sage Hospitality  
Nicole Jarman, Jarman & Co. Events  
Lulu Lantzy, Auraria Higher Education Campus  
Grace Ramírez, Xcel Energy  
Jaime Moreno, Colorado Access  
Jennifer Nealson, National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
Susan Noble, Community Volunteer  
Danielle Oliveto, State of Colorado, Office of the Governor  
Peter Park, Peter Park Planning + Design  
Eric Rymarz, Urban Villages  
Andrew Stettner, Stettner Properties  
Skye Stuart, Pachner Company  
Brian Vogt, Denver Botanic Gardens  
Jolon Clark, Denver Parks & Recreation, Ex Officio  
Chris Hinds, City Council District 10, Ex Officio  
Jen Morris, Denver Arts & Venues, Ex Officio



**Nicole Jarman**  
*Civic Center Conservancy  
Board Member*

"As someone who used to run EATS in Civic Center Park, it's been amazing to see the Civic Center Conservancy's social impact programming model foster even more community-driven cultural events. From the NIGHT MARKET to Día de los Muertos and AAPI Culture Fest, these celebrations unite and empower diverse communities on a much larger scale. It's a privilege to be part of this transformation."

## STAFF

Marissa Forbes, Development Coordinator  
Allison Galgiani, Event Success Coordinator  
Murphy Hogan, Senior Operations Coordinator  
Eric Lazzari, Executive Director  
Sara Leitch, Director of External Affairs  
Eric Raya Steinbeiss, Director of Community Partnerships & Activation



# MISSIONAL GOALS

In 2023, we set some big goals  
to help guide our work.

**BY 2027, WE WILL:**

**ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

Double opportunities for small business  
entrepreneurs and triple workforce opportunities

**COMMUNITY BUILDING**

Engage 200 community groups

**PARKS ARE PUBLIC HEALTH**

Make Civic Center the downtown destination for public health  
by ensuring the park is clean, beautiful, and safe — helping  
thousands unlock the health benefits of the outdoors

**SINCE 2023, WE'VE:**

**ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

More than tripled our workforce opportunities  
through WORKS and Youth WORKS

**COMMUNITY BUILDING**

Engaged 251 partners

**PARKS ARE PUBLIC HEALTH**

Contributed over 8,500 hours of beauty maintenance  
through WORKS and our SPARKLES volunteers

**AND WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED.  
ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES,  
YOU'LL SEE HOW WE'VE MADE A DENT  
IN EACH OF THESE GOALS IN 2024.**





# FOR THE PARK

## KEEPING THE PARK GREEN AND BEAUTIFUL



In Civic Center WORKS’s third year, this workforce development program continued making a profound impact, employing 46 unhoused individuals to contribute to meaningful maintenance and beautification of Civic Center Park. This initiative not only enhanced the park’s beauty but also empowered participants with valuable skills and a sense of purpose.

Our continued partnership with Bayaud was instrumental in connecting the WORKS crew to employment opportunities, and we extend our gratitude to Chevron, First Western Trust, Kenneth King Foundation, and VF for their generous support in making this transformative program possible.



### PARTNERS



**John Olander**  
“I’m really proud to lead a crew of people who are committed to keeping this park sparkling and beautiful. You don’t always get to work as a collective toward a single goal like making the park a great place to be, and I’m lucky to be a part of that.”



In 2024, Civic Center SPARKLES, the Conservancy’s volunteer program, expanded significantly to address an increased beautification gap in Civic Center Park. As the City reallocated resources to respond to an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, we remained steadfast in our commitment to maintaining a clean, beautiful, and accessible park. Recognizing that flowers and vibrant landscapes directly impact how welcoming a space feels, we doubled our volunteer efforts, adding an additional volunteer day each week and partnering with the expert team at Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado.

The results were nothing short of remarkable. Nearly 500 dedicated community members contributed 1,193 hours of service, maintaining the park’s place as Denver’s iconic community hub, despite challenging circumstances. Additionally, our ongoing partnership with Grow Local Colorado led to the harvest of 3,337 pounds of fresh produce from Civic Center’s garden beds, which were shared with those in need through organizations like Metro Caring, SAME Café, We Don’t Waste, and more. Together, we not only beautified the park but also nourished our neighbors, creating a lasting impact on both the environment and the community.



### PARTNERS





# FOR THE PEOPLE



## EATS EMPOWERS COMMUNITY

EATS has provided the best summer lunch in Denver for over a decade, and 2024 did not disappoint. However, Civic Center Conservancy leveraged its unique social impact partnerships model to provide work-based learning for youth, free and clean water for patrons, food vouchers for those in need, and economic supports for emerging small business entrepreneurs — all while maintaining delicious and diverse lunchtime food options for Denverites.

## EATS FOR ALL

Thank you again to Barefoot PR for helping expand the reach EATS has in our community, removing cost barriers to participate through our program EATS for All.

Civic Center Conservancy’s food access program provided over 600 meals to those in need. Last year, we leveraged the strength of our community partners to distribute them to the people who needed them most. Our distribution partners included local nonprofits, resource centers, libraries, and park rangers in and around the downtown area.

### PARTNERS



## HOW EATS HELPED

- Served 18,000 meals
- Worked with over 50 vendors
- Fed 600 EATS meals to those in need
- Employed 34 budding young professionals in music and hospitality
- Encouraged environmental stewardship via 3-stream waste
- Provided 132 hours of free water access

### PARTNERS





# FOR THE PEOPLE

## SUPPORTING DIVERSE SMALL BUSINESSES

This year, we embraced our roots with diverse small business entrepreneurs by providing more scholarships and exposure for our vendors than ever before. Our inclusive, dynamic approach resulted in 80% of our EATS vendors identifying as BIPOC, women, or immigrants.

We proudly expanded our scholarship offers to eight women and/or BIPOC-owned food trucks to support regular participation and reduce their financial risk.

### SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- CURBSIDE KITCHEN LTD
- THE RICE GUY
- CACHAI CHILEAN FOOD
- EL TRES LORAS FOOD TRUCK
- POWERED BY BESITOS
- THE SAVAGE BEET
- FLIPPIN BIRDZ FOOD TRUCK



## YOUTH WORKS FOR EATS

In its second year, the Conservancy’s partnership with Youth Employment Academy and Youth on Record proved successful as our Youth WORKS program increased to 34 young people. For our Youth Employment Academy cohort, we provided on-the-job training in event logistics, customer service, and custodial service to increase their opportunities as they entered the workforce. Youth on Record provided Civic Center EATS with entertainment as they engaged youth in learning how to book, produce, and perform in public spaces. Support from Bank of America was paramount in the Conservancy’s advocacy for Denver communities through our youth workforce programs.

### PARTNERS



## SUSTAINABILITY

Civic Center Conservancy continued its sustainability efforts to ensure a healthy park for a healthy community. As our Sustainability Partner, Delta Dental of Colorado supported our 3-stream waste disposal system and the addition of the Conservancy’s own water tree so that all visitors had access to free water. We provided volunteers and our Youth WORKS crews with knowledge to assist the public with their disposal options. The water tree provided 132 hours of access to clean, free water.

### PARTNER





# FOR THE PEOPLE



## INDY EVE GETS AN UPDATE

Our beloved July 3rd tradition was reimagined last year as Indy Eve, presented by the City and County of Denver. For the first time, we delivered a drone show, which was the largest drone show in Colorado at the time. Additionally, there were light shows, music by Colorado Symphony Ensemble, and a taste of our new concept NIGHT MARKET with over 50 food and retail vendors. Over 12,000 visitors made their way to the park to enjoy this one-of-a-kind celebration of community and country.



## CONCERTS IN THE PARK

The Conservancy partnered with AEG to present six concerts in the park over the summer, which provided invaluable support to reinvest in our community-centered programming and brought unforgettable entertainment to the park.

## DIA DE LOS MUERTOS AT CIVIC CENTER

Presented by  
DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

The Conservancy was thrilled to welcome nearly 8,000 people to Civic Center Park to celebrate Día de los Muertos, presented by the Denver Botanic Gardens. The 2024 vibrant event was curated by artist Cal Duran, which brought creative floats, mariachi bands, folkloricos, artists, catrinas, altars, and lowriders to honor this day of the dead in Civic Center Park.



### PARTNERS

Councilwoman  
Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez



## NEW PROGRAMS FOR CIVIC CENTER

Civic Center Conservancy launched two successful programs in 2024, STARGAZE and NIGHT MARKET. Both accomplished impactful experiences in the park after dark.



Civic Center Conservancy partnered with AstroTours to bring a celestial journey right in the heart of the city. Skilled astronomers taught visitors of all ages about the wonders of the cosmos, constellations, and their folklore while observing the moon and other celestial bodies through high-powered telescopes. Each STARGAZE provided an “out-of-this-world” experience.



Civic Center’s NIGHT MARKET provided a family-friendly evening of local culinary experiences, cultural performances and activities, and a place to connect community in the heart of the city. Produced by Bonfire Event Co., NIGHT MARKET provided a safe and entertaining experience in the park with a Family Fun Zone, diverse music, plus over 25 vendors and merchants in local art, food, and beverages.

### COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND PARTNERS



ROY & GLORIA DINSDALE  
FOUNDATION





## HOLIDAYS IN CIVIC CENTER

Civic Center Conservancy was thrilled that both the Christkindlmarket and the Mile High Tree returned to Civic Center Park for their fourth year.

Christkindlmarket, produced by the German American Chamber of Commerce, has been in Denver for 24 years, the last four of which have been in Civic Center Park. This annual event brings authentic German and European holiday traditions to Denver, allowing guests to experience Glühwein, Bavarian-style beers, European coffee, or hot chocolate while wandering through the market full of charming artisans.

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 home for the holidays!

**370,000** PEOPLE VISITED THE PARK OVER THE HOLIDAY SEASON!



## COMMUNITY ACTIVATION COLLABORATIVE

Following our community town hall in 2023, we created the Community Activation Collaborative to help us ensure the park reflects the people who live in our city. This group of 14 individuals representing diverse cultural sectors met every other month to provide critical feedback and thought partnerships to create more access to the park for historically marginalized groups. Great results for the group were bringing back Día de los Muertos and launching NIGHT MARKET.

### COLLABORATIVE MEMBERS

- Erin Banta, Phamaly Theatre Company
- Joshua Emerson, DeadRoom Comedy
- Rex Fuller, The Center on Colfax/LGBT Commission
- Yvonne Garcia Bardwell, Denver Botanic Gardens
- Erica McIntire, Bank of America
- Demi Harvey, Gradient Punch: not-your-average creative agency
- Kelly Holmes, Native Max Magazine/Skoden Ventures
- Joanne Liu, Asian Girls Ignite
- Joy Mae, 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



### PARTNERS



German American  
Chambers of Commerce  
Deutsch-Amerikanische  
Handelskammern





# FOR THE FUTURE

## NEXT 100 CAPITAL UPDATE

The Civic Center Next 100 Project gained momentum as designs for the Greek Theater and Central Promenade progressed. World-renowned architectural firm Studio Gang, led by Jeanne Gang, revealed initial 30% design renderings to enhance the Greek Theater and Central Promenade, creating a welcoming, accessible cultural hub for Denver.

As an independent nonprofit, Civic Center Conservancy plays a crucial role in stakeholder engagement by connecting with individuals, businesses, and community groups, as well as funding the design phase and fundraising for future construction phases. As this project continues to move forward, here are all your questions answered.

### WHAT EXACTLY IS THE CIVIC CENTER NEXT 100 PROJECT?

The Civic Center Next 100 project aims to revitalize Denver's Civic Center through four integrated projects: modernizing the Greek Theater into a premier outdoor venue, upgrading the Central Promenade to accommodate year-round events, transforming Bannock Street into a vibrant public plaza, and creating a new Central Gathering Feature with public art and gardens.

### HOW IS THE PROJECT FUNDED?

The Phase 1 design and construction budget currently totals \$18 million, funded through multiple sources: \$4 million from the Elevate Denver Bond, \$290,000 from the Civic Center Conservancy, \$1.8 million from the Mellon Foundation, with Denver Parks & Recreation providing the remaining funds. Civic Center Conservancy is working toward bringing additional private funds to the table.

### WHEN WILL THE CIVIC CENTER NEXT 100 IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT BREAK GROUND? WILL EVENTS TAKE PLACE IN THE PARK WHILE UNDER CONSTRUCTION?

Construction is anticipated to begin in fall 2025. While the central portion of the park, including the Central Promenade and the Greek Theater area of the park, will be closed during construction, other portions of the park, including the Broadway Terrace and area around the Voorhies Memorial, will remain open.



### HOW DOES THE DESIGN RESPECT AND ENHANCE CIVIC CENTER PARK AS DENVER'S FIRST NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?

The design of this revitalization project was carefully crafted with input from historic preservation experts. Drawing direct inspiration from Edward Bennett's 1918 plan, the new Central Promenade design re-establishes his original pattern of a central walk flanked by two smaller paths, now complemented by arched pathways. The project will create accessible routes that follow historic patterns while providing universal access to key features, including the Voorhies Memorial and Greek Theater.

The Greek Theater rehabilitation will feature a design that preserves the original structure while introducing a new canopy and reoriented bowl design. These improvements maintain the theater's historic character while ensuring accessibility to all levels and features.

### WILL THE PROPOSED DESIGN IN THE GREEK THEATER ADDRESS ACCESSIBILITY CONCERNS?

A main goal of the project is to increase access. The new design will make the Greek Theater accessible for the first time in its history and provide ADA access wherever possible by removing stairs and other barriers to allow all users the same access within the park.

### WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE OF DENVER AND CREATING A MORE VIBRANT DOWNTOWN?

While Civic Center Park excels at hosting the city's largest gatherings, it remains underutilized for daily activities. These improvements will transform the park into a vibrant everyday destination, drawing more visitors and residents year-round while enhancing downtown's economic vitality.





## COCKTAILS IN THE PARK

Cocktails in the Park returned in Civic Center for a beautiful night celebrating the year's accomplishments and gearing up for all the transformations to come. This special night for our most committed supporters included talks from Mayor Mike Johnston, our board chair Chris Frampton, our Executive Director Eric Lazzari, and our keynote speaker from our Next 100 architect, Jeanne Gang.



### PRESENTING SPONSOR



### LEADERSHIP SPONSORS



German American  
Chambers of Commerce  
Deutsch-Amerikanische  
Handelskammern

### SUPPORTING SPONSORS



Brownstein | Hyatt  
Farber | Schreck



# 2024 IMPACT



**46**  
PARTICIPANTS  
**2,154** HOURS

**YOUTH WORKS**  
**34** YOUTH WORKERS  
**793** HOURS  
**38** DAYS OF EVENT PRODUCTION  
& PERFORMANCES



**38** DAYS OF FOOD TRUCKS  
**600+**  
MEALS TO INCREASE  
FOOD ACCESS

**8 VENDOR  
SCHOLARSHIPS**  
WOMEN-OWNED AND/OR BIPOC-OWNED  
SMALL BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURS



**1,193** HOURS  
**496** VOLUNTEERS

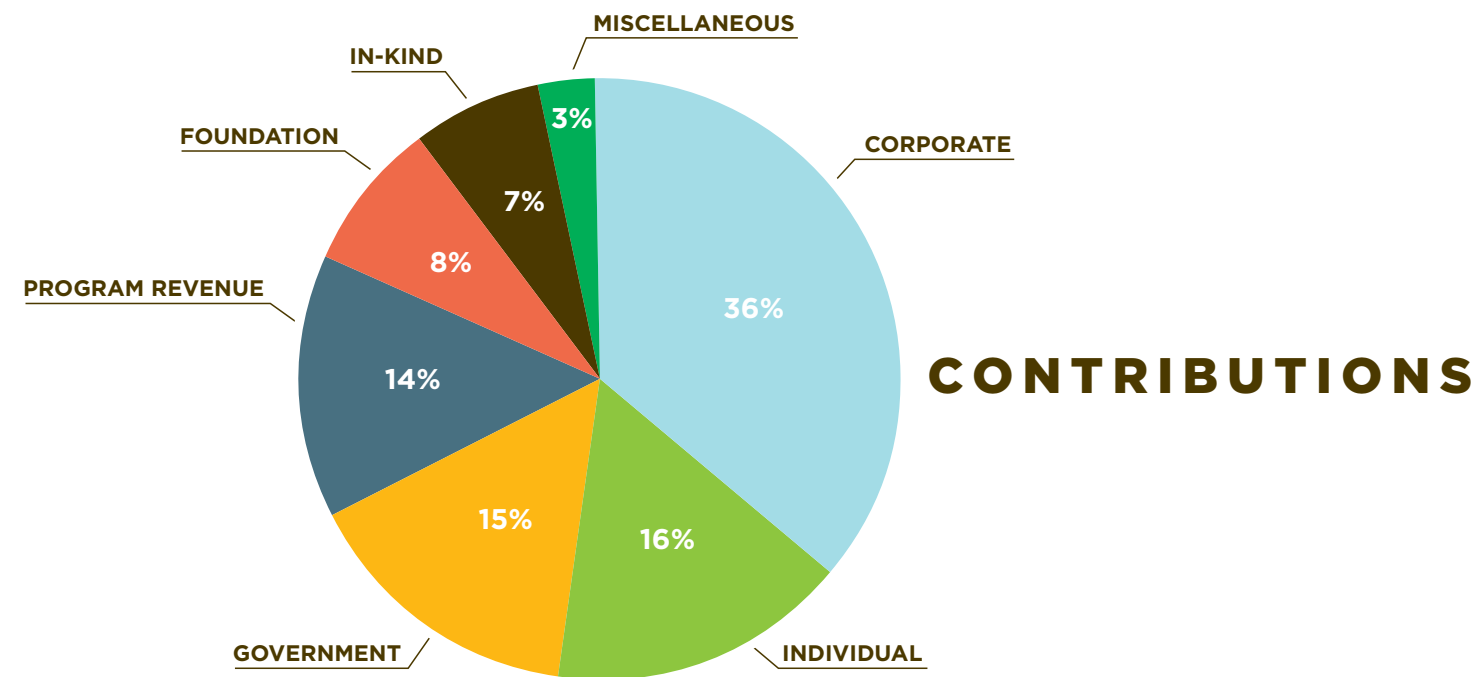
**28** DAYS OF SERVICE  
**3,337**  
POUNDS OF PRODUCE HARVESTED

**6**  
**AEG CONCERTS**

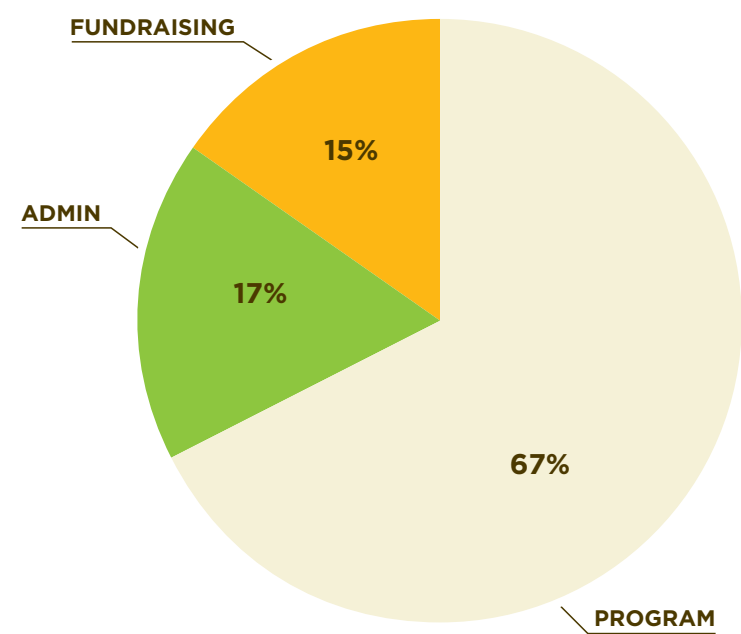
**370,000**  
**HOLIDAY VISITORS**



# FINANCIAL REPORT



# EXPENSES



# 2024 SUPPORTERS



Next 100 Partners have committed often multi-year gifts of \$15,000 and \$25,000 gifts to re-energize our treasured Denver landmark for the next 100 years.

# CHAMPIONS



# SUPPORTERS



# COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND SUPPORTERS

These supporters help bring programming and events to the park, with some focusing on different areas like economic opportunity, arts and culture, and community.





2024 INSTITUTIONAL 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)	Scott Martinez
Elaine & Richard Asarch	Tom & Lisa McLagan
Sean & Melissa Bahoshy	Susan & Howard Noble
Ferd & Christy Belz	Matt Neren
Trish & Tully Bragg	Katie & Michael Owen
Jonathan & Aimee Coleman	Marcus Pachner
FloraJane & James DiRienzo	Peter & Kristin Park
Chris & Yvette Frampton	Jack Pottle
Kourtny Garrett	Victoria Sterling
Danielle Glover	Andrew & Sarah Stettner
John Gowen	Maren Stewart
Bruce James	Skye Stuart
Nicole Jarman	Marvin Wilkinson & Art Ellsworth
JM Jones	Brian Vogt
Sharon Martin	

2024 CONTRIBUTORS

2024 INSTITUTIONAL CONTRIBUTORS

\$50,000+

AEG  
Bank of America  
Chevron  
Latino Community Foundation of Colorado

\$25,000-\$49,999

DaVita  
Delta Dental  
Denver Botanic Gardens  
Kenneth King Foundation  
Liberty Global  
PCL Construction  
TransAmerica  
VF Foundation

\$10,000-\$24,999

East West Partners  
German American Chamber of Commerce  
Rose Community Foundation  
Urban Villages  
Xcel Energy  
Xcel Energy Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

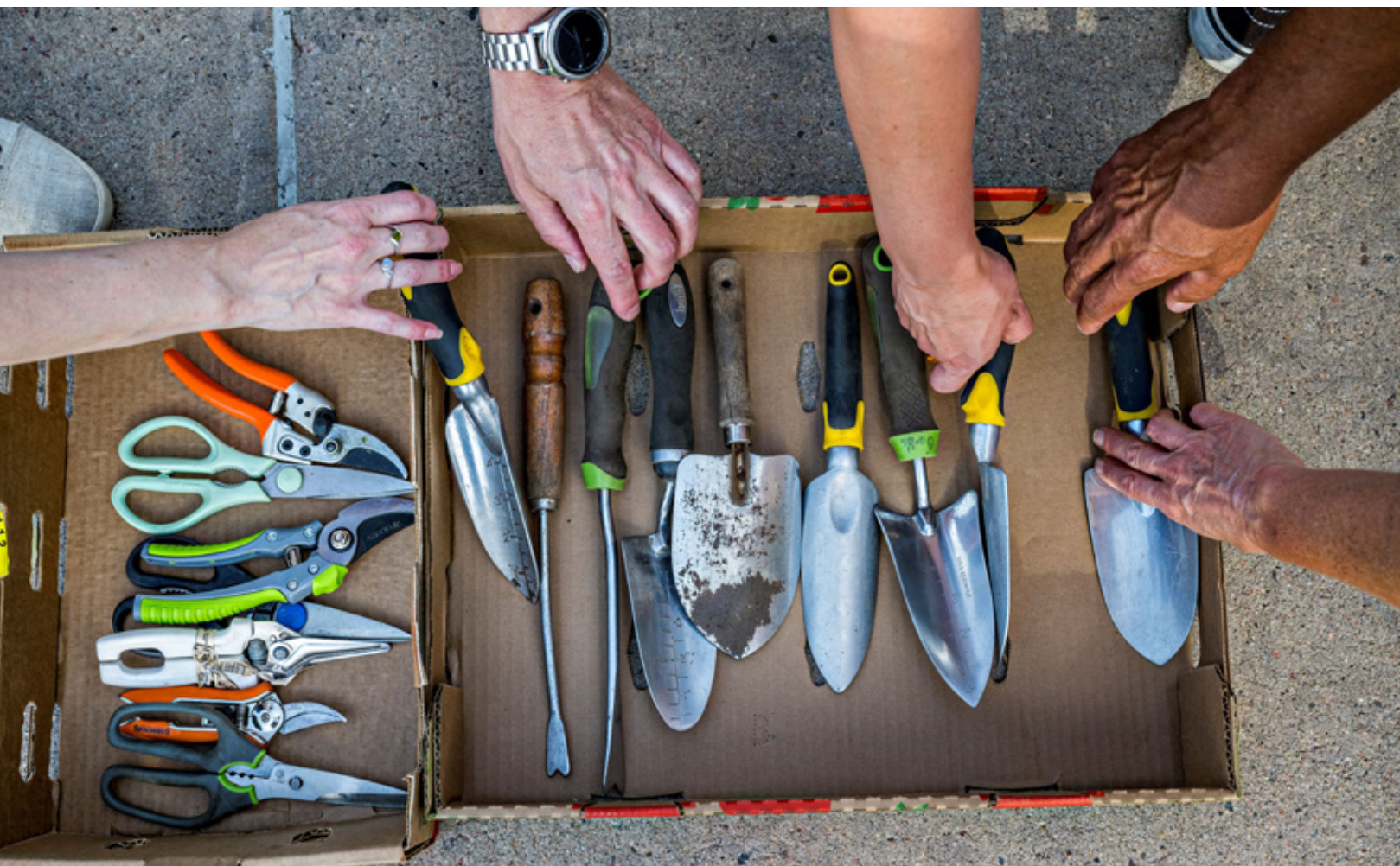
Barefoot PR  
BuildMark  
Dryden  
Ernst & Young LLP  
Kindred  
McWhinney  
Mortenson Construction  
Regional Air Quality Council  
Saunders Construction  
Southwest Airlines  
UCHealth  
Visit Denver  
Westword

\$1,000-\$4,999

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP  
The Center on Colfax  
CRL Associates, Inc.  
District 10 – Councilman Chris Hinds  
First Western Trust  
Fulenwider Inc.  
Garden Club of Denver  
Pinemelon



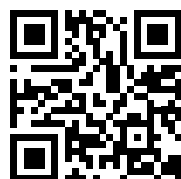
Civic Center Conservancy is dedicated to keeping Denver's Civic Center Park active and thriving for all. As an independent nonprofit, the Civic Center Conservancy engages individuals, businesses, and community groups as champions for this essential public space. The Conservancy attracts people to the 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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[CIVICCENTERPARK.ORG](http://CIVICCENTERPARK.ORG)