Night of a Thousand Sparks

RAISING MONEY FOR PUBLIC ART
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A Letter From the Director

“You learn at your best when you have something you care about and can get pleasure in being engaged in.”

– Howard Gardner

Anythink Wright Farms, our newest library at 120th and Holly, has been open just a few short months. In this time, over 8,000 people have received new library cards and over 200,000 materials have been checked out at this branch. As people discover this addition to our community, the most common comment is one of awe. It is a place, just like all of our libraries, that immediately makes one feel at home. People have discovered that the library habit is so engaging that they don’t want to leave this comfortable space filled with ideas, wonderful materials and interesting people.

None of this happened by accident. In planning our libraries our design team, led by Humphries Poli Architects, talked with hundreds of people, including students in our neighboring schools. The needs for a library in our community are very different from the needs when our original libraries were built in the ’60s and ’70s. People asked for opportunities to interact, to engage, to think, to connect.

These requests directly connect to 21st-century learning, which includes communication, creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation skills. Our libraries are designed for discovery of information, for thinking and for experimenting with ideas. Our libraries are designed for groups of people to have conversations, have book discussions, help each other with homework or even play chess.

Over the next few years, our library staff will be growing our programs and our collections to support 21st-century learning. If you have a suggestion for a program or something you would like to learn more about at the library, please e-mail me at psmith@anythinklibraries.org. Our mission is “to open doors for curious minds.” Now that our new and renovated libraries are close to completion, we turn our energy to filling our spaces with creativity and innovation.

Pam Sandlian Smith

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Honoring Identity Through Art

In the past year, Rangeview Library District has opened four new beautiful facilities in Bennett, Brighton, and Thornton. Thousands of new materials grace their bookshelves, new computers are used daily at each location, and people of all ages have found their favorite nooks at their local Anythink. Yet one feature seems missing – where is the public art?

True to Anythink style, the traditional approach was not the way the district wanted to go when considering public art. Visual arts manager Mary Thelen and communications director Steve Hansen instead developed the district’s collaborative public art project, “This is Who We Are” – an interactive experience for library customers that will help showcase the identity of Adams County communities through art.

The project partners local, professional artists with a selected group of library customers of all ages to create permanent art installations at each of the seven Anythink locations in Adams County. Once each group is formed, they will define the details and scope of their location’s installations and work together to create them.

All of the pieces are meant to reflect the identity of the individuals working on the project and the communities in which they are created. Some of the themes planned include “Discovering Identity,” “Discovering Family,” “Discovering the Planet,” and “Discovering Our Future.” The concept is designed to offer transformative experiences for participants as well as to create permanent art pieces for the libraries.

“This collaborative public art project is just as much about the process as it is about the product. We want to build relationships between our customers and these artists while emphasizing that everyone is creative – it might just be in different
ways,” says Thelen. “The end result will be more than just the pieces of art – there will be the memories and experiences of everyone involved.”

Each group will work with a different medium to develop the art pieces, ranging from sculpture and painting to sound and light, digital imagery to the written word.

A WORLD OF SPARKS
Because of the powerful message of the collaborative public art project, the Rangeview Library Friends Foundation decided that its inaugural fundraising event would raise money for “This is Who We Are.” Held at Anythink Wright Farms on Saturday, Sept. 11, Sparkopolis raised $25,000 to put towards the project. Three hundred and seventy-five people enjoyed the sights and sounds at what’s being lauded as the most creative party of the year.

The district’s flagship branch was transformed into a new world of sparks for the event. As they arrived, guests were complimented by sound artist Jim Green’s installation, “Talking Vestibule.” Light painting and the Make a Statement wall highlighted the fun and interactivity common at Anythink. The mirror ball near the front of the library and light displays inside and out provided a sense of fun and whimsy to the evening.

No matter where guests were in the library, they were served culinary delights courtesy of Chef Ian Kleinman and the Inventing Room. For folks mingling and walking through the library, a tasty surprise awaited around every corner, whether it was the peach martinis with strawberry pop rocks or delicious Colorado cheeses. Of course, the liquid nitrogen ice cream station had guests oohhing and ahhhing as they created their own sundaes with delicious and intriguing toppings.

Anythink Wright Farms’ teen area was also transformed for the evening into an artists’ salon, where some of Colorado’s leading installation artists mingled with guests. Their own sketches and pieces were on display as they discussed their passions for public art. Sculptor DiAnne Cooper brought the mold for her piece “Communis,” the largest piece of public art in the city of Thornton. Artist Susan Cooper also displayed her piece “Two Angles,” which plays with shadow and perspective. Artists David Griggs, Robert Tully and Virginia Folkestad also participated in the event.

For the fundraising event, Anythink Wright Farms was transformed into a world of sparks. Light projections on the inner and outer walls of the library set the mood of fun and playfulness for the evening’s event. One of the night’s signature pieces was the glittering mirror ball at the library’s entrance.
With the funds from Sparkopolis in hand, the district can now move forward with the project. “Now the real fun begins,” says Anythink communications director Steve Hansen. “The money we’ve raised toward the project will allow us to begin planning the details for each of the creative collaborations. We’ll sit down with our public art advisor, library staff and people from the community to discuss the design approaches we want to use for each location.”

Hansen says the appropriate artists will then be selected for the first few projects to help organize creativity workshops in the next several months. The district’s goal is to have at least two art installations in place next year. The Commerce City and Perl Mack locations are being considered for the first projects, but no firm decision has yet been made.

Over the next year, the Rangeview Library Friends Foundation will continue working to raise the rest of the funds for the project, estimated at $75,000 total. “We’re a third of the way there,” Hansen continues.

“At Anythink, our goal is to inspire creativity in our customers while becoming an integral part of the communities we serve,” he says. “The collaborative public art project helps us to continue this mission by creating beautiful art pieces for our libraries and encouraging a sense of ownership for our customers in the process.”

To contribute to “This is Who We Are,” go to anythinklibraries.org/donate-now.

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**New Books: Check ’Em Out**

In honor of the district’s collaborative public art project, “This is Who We Are,” explore your artistic side with these great titles.

**Children/Teen**

*A Book About Color*  
by Mark Gonyea

*Oooh! Picasso*  
by Mil Niepold & Jeanyves Verdu

**Adult**

*500 Art Quilts: An Inspiring Collection of Contemporary Work*  
edited by Ray Hemachandra

*Doors Open*  
by Ian Rankin

*The Botticelli Secret*  
by Marina Fiorato

*Are You Blue Dog’s Friend?*  
by George Rodrigue

*Bettina Valentino and the Picasso Club*  
by Niki Daly

*Me Make Monster!: A Mish Mash of Monstercraft*  
by Jenny Harada

*Heist Society*  
by Ally Carter

*The Swan Thieves*  
by Elizabeth Kostova
Chef Ian Kleinman of the Inventing Room inspires creativity through food by using things like liquid nitrogen to play with tastes and textures. He enjoys “giving people something they’re used to but in a different way,” and believes Anythink does the same thing with their libraries.

Bringing Molecular to the Masses

When the Anythink team and the Foundation board began planning Sparkopolis, their first annual fundraising event, at the forefront of their minds was the desire to create food memories for the guests who attended. Food memories are what they got on Saturday, Sept. 11, with Chef Ian Kleinman’s Inventing Room catering the event. From pipettes of Rocky Ford melon juice spearing Serrano peppers and prosciutto to an ice cream station where guests were asked to don goggles to add toppings created with liquid nitrogen, the food experience was unlike anything many had seen before.

After several years of working at O’s Steak and Seafood at the Westin Westminster, Kleinman has branched out on his own with the Inventing Room, “a unique catering concept bringing together fun, delicious food and culinary entertainment,” according to the website.

Born and raised in Breckenridge, Colo., Kleinman ventured down to Denver after high school to attend the Art Institute, where his father was an instructor. Food was always in his blood – his grandfather was a cooking instructor in Norway – and it continues to be a family affair with Kleinman’s wife Melissa running the front of the house operations and sister Rachel as bar manager for larger events. Kleinman and his wife have two daughters – Ryan, 5, and Taylor, 9, who are often the beneficiaries of Kleinman’s creativity.

His passion for molecular gastronomy began while working at the St. Regis in Fort Lauderdale, an opportunity presented to him through the Westin’s task force program. It was there that he met a chef who worked at Alinea in Chicago – the nation’s leading molecular restaurant. When
Kleinman started hearing about tomato paper and avocado gas, he was hooked.

“I have always been fascinated with science,” he says. Molecular gastronomy allows him to combine that fascination with his love of cooking. For three years after he was introduced to the concept, he played with different chemicals to create new textures in food. “It was like sixth grade science class.” Eventually, he got to the point where he knew which experiments would give him the results he was looking for.

When he was asked to cater Sparkopolis, he says he was drawn to the “openness of the Anythink concept. It’s not like other community libraries.” Even something as simple as the floor plans of the new libraries offer something to people that is “exciting and uplifting,” he says. “That’s how I think about my food. We have a similar philosophy about giving people something they’re used to but in a different way.”

Kleinman was also drawn to the interactivity of the event. “We do these creation stations at some events, and people don’t always respond the way they did at Sparkopolis. It was cool to see that everyone was into it the way they were. You could tell they really wanted to be there.”

The other experiences like the Make a Statement wall and the light painting added to the excitement of the evening and what he was trying to do with the food as well, says Kleinman. He hopes to continue the partnership with Anythink by possibly offering programs to kids at the library.

For now, Kleinman’s focus is on the Inventing Room’s street cart that has been stationed this summer at Denver’s Civic Center Park and at the site of Tiri’s Garden farmers’ market on 15th and California Streets in downtown Denver.

“We’re trying to bring molecular to the masses,” says Kleinman. “Molecular is typically associated with fine dining,” but that’s something the Inventing Room is hoping to change with the delicious and accessible ice creams and desserts at the downtown cart.

“Our school demo program would be a perfect fit,” he says. During the demos he provides scientific lessons on how CO2 is used in everyday life and then shows kids how it can be used in cooking. With community gardens planned for the renovated Commerce City and Perl Mack branches, possibilities abound.

The Inventing Room is also in negotiations with the Denver Convention Center to offer a dessert bar and mixology station there.

Kleinman and wife Melissa are in the unique position to be able to pick and choose the types of events they want to participate in. “We’re trying to grow the best we can while making each individual event fun,” he says.

“Ten months ago, we didn’t know this is where we’d be,” he says, and he’s not quite sure what the future holds either, but “that’s part of the fun. We just want to focus on the things we like to do and on creating new food experiences.”

To learn more about Kleinman and the Inventing Room, visit theinventingroomonline.com.
Events Not to Miss

Don’t Know Much About... Zucchini

Join us as we explore a different topic from our non-fiction collection each month. Through demonstration and presentations, participants will learn something new to spark their curiosity. In September, learn about zucchini and take home some simple, delicious recipes for that nutritious bumper crop.

Thursday, September 30, 6:30 pm
Anythink Wright Farms
5877 E. 120th Avenue
Thornton, CO 80602

Craigslist Tips and Tricks

Craigslist is a free network similar to the classified ads in a newspaper, with information about apartments, jobs, and items for sale. Learn how to browse listings, post your own ad, and get some tips for using Craigslist safely. Basic computer skills required.

Tuesday, October 5, 7 pm
Anythink Brighton
327 E. Bridge Street
Brighton, CO 80601

Tales to Tails

Come and read to our special listening dogs. They love a good story! Our dogs come from the American Humane Association and are specially trained. Appropriate for children ages 6-12. An especially good experience for reluctant readers or children who are afraid of dogs. Please call 303-452-7534 to register.

Saturday, October 16, 10 am-12 pm
Anythink Huron Street
9417 Huron Street
Thornton, CO 80260

Sandlian Smith Named Colorado Librarian of the Year

Rangeview Library District director Pam Sandlian Smith is the recipient of this year’s Colorado Librarian of the Year Award presented by the Colorado Association of Libraries. The award recognizes exceptional achievement during the past year by a librarian within the state of Colorado.

“When I finished college, I never wanted to be a librarian,” said Sandlian Smith. “Looking back, however, I can’t think of a better career for someone who has a big imagination and wants to make a difference.”

The CAL Awards Committee selects winners each year based on nominations submitted by librarians and others in the library community. “It’s great to give recognition to people who are truly paving the way in the library world,” said Molly Gibney, co-chair of the 10-person volunteer committee. “Every year we are excited to see the innovation and hard work that comes through in each nomination. Colorado has great talent in the library field.”

When you’re done reading SPARK, share with a friend, give back to your librarian or recycle.