


# ANYTHINK LIBRARIES

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



anythink™





Celebrating 10 years of Anythink, 2019 brought many new opportunities to continue Anythink's mission of "opening doors for curious minds." Thank you to all of the supporters who made this work possible.



When  
Anythinkers  
come  
together,  
anything  
is possible.  
These are  
the words  
we live by.

ANYTHINK EMPLOYEE MANIFESTO



You are not  
just an employee,  
volunteer or board member.  
You do not merely catalog books,  
organize periodicals and manage resources.  
You are the gateway into the mind of the idea people  
who come to our facilities to find or fuel a spark.

Part **WIZARD**

Part **GENIUS**

Part **EXPLORER**

It is your calling to trespass into the unknown and  
come back with a concrete piece someone can hold  
onto, turn over, and use to fuel their mind and soul.



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# CELEBRATING — 10 YEARS — OF ANYTHINK

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On Sept. 12, 2009, Anythink launched its first fully branded new library, Anythink Brighton. Since then, Anythink libraries have grown to become one of the most recognized library brands in the world. With that has come a lot of trailblazing – from being the first library system to replace the Dewey Decimal System district-wide to opening the first carbon-negative branch in the country. Milestones like these are coupled with the ongoing work of providing innovative services and spaces that surprise and delight.

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“Since launching Anythink in 2009, we have been dedicated to providing Adams County residents with the exceptional services and libraries they deserve. As we look towards the future, our organization continues to evolve alongside our community, providing even more opportunities to improve the quality of life for everyone in Adams County.”

– Pam Sandlian Smith, Anythink Director





# BUILDING COMMUNITY

Anythink is a place where everyone is invited to connect, learn and grow. With programs, services, one-on-one support and friendly faces, the library helps to build a community that is happy, healthy and safe.



# 102,856

## Anythink library cardholders



“I was first introduced to Anythink Wright Farms when we moved to Henderson, Colo., and I Googled where to take my midterm election ballot in November 2014. The drop-

off ballot box is where I’ve taken every ballot since, and I am so grateful for its ease and access. After I realized that this was a great library, I started to take a child that I nannied weekly to Anythink. She was a tween, and we had fun exploring the after-school art projects that were always available on Wednesdays. I’m also an avid reader – I especially prefer pages to screens – and have read over 100 books over the last few years, thanks to many wonderful recommendations from Anythink librarians.

“Once I had my son, we started attending Baby Bounce, and loved meeting new moms and baby friends! Anythink has always been an amazing experience for me, especially as I’ve grown from young adult to a mother. I’ve attended Baby Bounce, Spanish, Music and Movement, and miniThinker programs at both Anythink Wright Farms and Any-

think Brighton. We instantly fell in love with Ms. Megan and Ms. Kate at the Brighton location. These two women, as well as other children’s librarians, immediately asked our names and introduced themselves and the programs that they provided for our family.

“The staff is always incredibly welcoming, and I’ve felt their desire to help me succeed in many different aspects of my life. We are weekly regulars and have met so many wonderful parents and babies through the programs that staff have poured their time and energy into. I’ve felt nothing but support, love, and consistent, thoughtful ways that Anythink could aid me and my family. Anythink will always be a second home to me.”

– Candal McLaughlin,  
Anythink customer



131  
full-time equivalent staff members



“Every time I visit I am treated with kindness and respect. I am constantly reminded by your staff of the true definition of customer service. In a world where simple common courtesy is a diminishing trait, it is beyond refreshing to feel I am actually welcome.”

– Sativa, Anythink customer



# 272

## new Anythink Foundation members

Anythink Foundation members are catalysts for innovation, contributing monthly support to special programs and projects for the Adams County community.





# NEVER STOP LEARNING

Anythink is committed to providing learning opportunities that spark curiosity and fuel the mind. With interactive programming, world-class resources and one-on-one assistance, anyone can gain the skills they need to get ahead.





2,185,520  
materials loaned

543,182  
ebooks downloaded



“We go weekly to stock up on bedtime storybooks, and I always have 1-5 things on hold for me. If I had the time and dedication, I could also learn a language and take all kinds of online courses for free. It’s magic.”

– Amanda B., Anythink customer



82,941  
attendees at Anythink programs



“You had guests from the Clyfford Still Museum who spoke to kids about his art. I took my kids during spring break to that museum, and they talked about the art in such a meaningful way. They actually took time to look at and interpret the art on their own. This would have never have happened if they didn’t learn more about Clyfford Still at the library. I am grateful for these experiences that you bring to the community.”

– J.P. C., Anythink customer



# 1,275

people at the Anythink Backyard Concert Series



Each year, the Anythink Foundation helps bring the community together through music during the Anythink Backyard Concert Series. Held outside at Anythink Wright Farms, this summertime tradition is an opportunity for families to connect, dance and celebrate the season.



# CELEBRATING A SPIRIT OF INNOVATION

Anythink is an organization that supports local independent businesses through creative collaboration. This innovative approach allows Anythink to dream big and build meaningful community relationships.





# 2,147,483,648

The number of different sound combinations  
you can create while playing “The Singing Tree.”

“The Singing Tree” at Anythink Perl Mack is a public art piece that uses light and sound to create an interactive experience. Unveiled in April 2019, this outdoor installation operates as a musical instrument using an integrated MIDI keyboard.

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“Anythink Libraries and Alt Ethos experiential design studio have been important partners for the past two years supporting both organizations with a positive, effective relationship. The fusion of libraries with arts and technology innovation and education contributes to creating spaces that go beyond books.

“The intersection of art, technology, and interactivity transforms people from passive viewers into active participants. This type of engagement increases our ability to learn and feel connected to the experience.

“By putting art at the forefront of that experience, Anythink Libraries is rethinking and reimagining the importance of creative learning in a revolution of library design thinking. Anythink looks for every opportunity to support the community, whether that is through their live music series or being leaders in rethinking traditional



library services. They are true leaders in our community through innovations and arts engagement.”

– Ethan Bach, CEO of Alt Ethos



# 156

community partners at Anythink



Having meaningful partnerships with local organizations and artists allows Anythink to provide one-of-a-kind experiences to neighborhoods that might not otherwise have access to them. Our partners play a key role in providing the spark and imagination that customers of all ages expect when they walk through our doors.

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“Thankful to Anythink Libraries for giving artists a chance to share their knowledge. I had a blast teaching another class yesterday.”

– Adelina Gonzales  
aka That 5280 Lady



# 381,525

Service area population



“Someone asked my 12-year-old yesterday what he’d do if he was suddenly granted a million dollars, but had to spend it in 24 hours. Without hesitating, he replied ‘Well first, I’d make a gift to my local library. Anythink is awesome and does so much for our community. We need the library and they don’t get enough support, so I’d start there.’ I was stunned that he didn’t start his list with a trip to Hawaii or a spree at the LEGO store. Who says kids don’t still need libraries?”

– Lisa G., Anythink customer



# ANYTHINK FUNDING

Anythink serves the residents of Adams County, Colo., with seven branches in Bennett, Brighton, Commerce City, Thornton and the Perl Mack neighborhood of Denver. The library also offers outreach services through Anythink in Motion, the district's bookmobile, which visits neighborhoods and communities throughout the county. With a focus on innovation, Anythink's award-winning approach to library service is recognized by industry leaders and organizations across the globe.





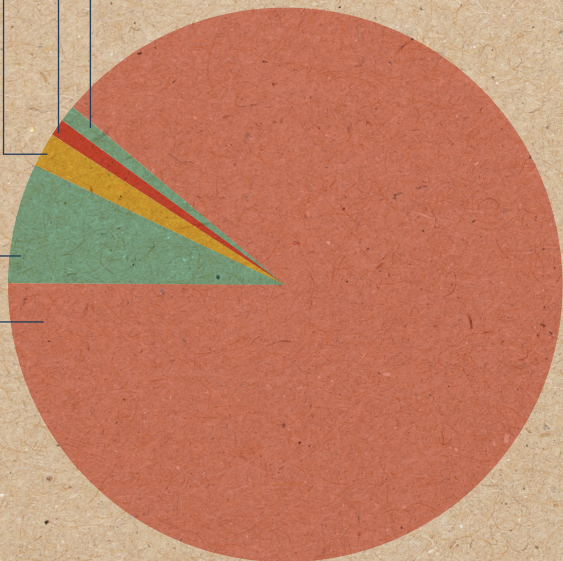
# 2019

## Anythink funding at a glance

These are the primary sources of Anythink's funding, and how it spends those funds.

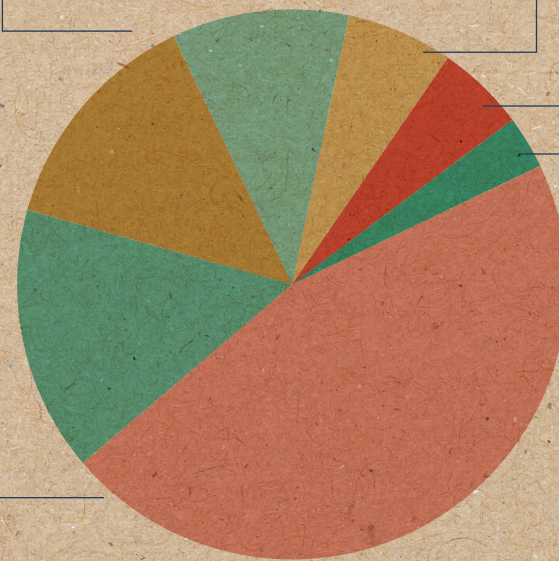
### Where the money comes from

Property taxes: 89% – **\$16,998,523**  
Specific ownership tax: 7% – **\$1,346,651**  
Grants, donations, erate, etc.: 2% – **\$270,700**  
Fines and fees: 1% – **\$191,900**  
Interest on deposits... >1% – **\$205,000**



### Where the money goes

Personnel: 44% – **\$8,756,344**  
Debt service: 15% – **\$3,023,025**  
Library materials: 13% – **\$2,618,289**  
Professional and technology: 10% – **\$2,116,160**  
Capital outlay: 3% – **\$595,000**  
Administrative services: 5% – **\$916,998**  
Facilities: 6% – **\$1,285,000**





# WELCOME TO THE TREEHOUSE

The Anythink Foundation supports the library with special programs and projects outside of the library's operation budget. These opportunities provide memorable experiences for the Adams County community that otherwise would not be possible without the generous support of donors.





# Foundation Snapshot



Funds raised by the Anythink Foundation support programs and services in four key areas:

- Capital projects
- Public art
- Expansion of collections
- Exceptional programs, activities and technology education

Total current assets = **\$177,439**

Individual donations made in 2019 = **614**

Inaugural Anythink Foundation members in 2019 = **272**

Cost to become a member = **\$39 annually**



# Anythink Foundation Sponsors and Supporters

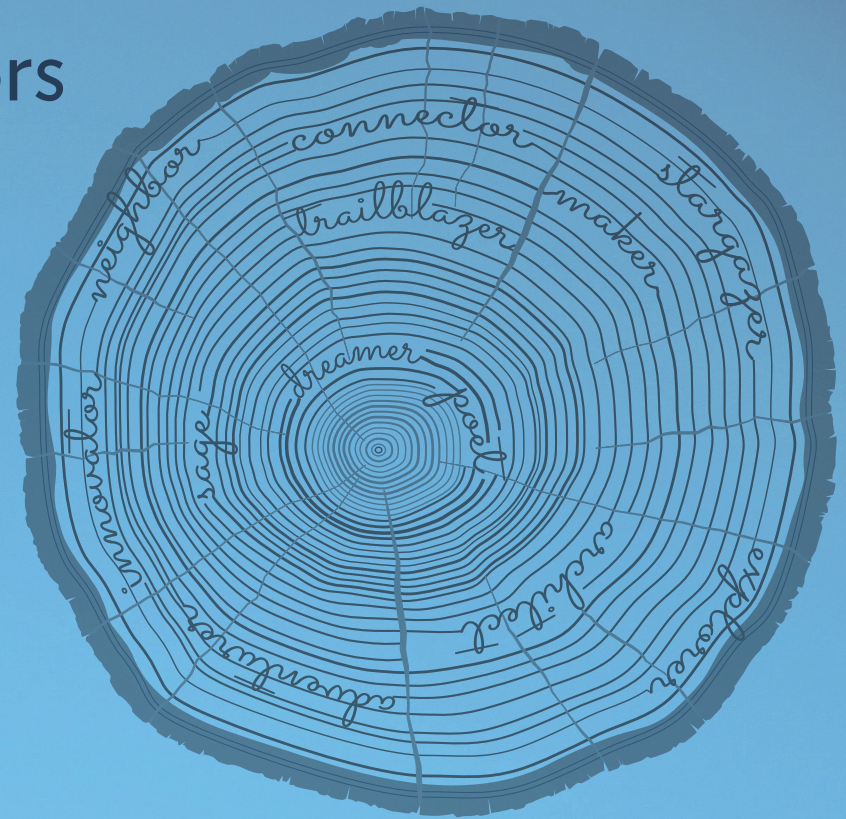
Thank you to our generous sponsors and supporters. The following individuals and organizations donated to the Anythink Foundation at the \$100 level and above:

Amelia Wahl  
Amy Kolenbrander  
Amy Miranda  
Anastasia McCune  
Andrew Southard  
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# Anythink Foundation Members

“This is a space where imagination reigns, where ideas are exchanged and daydreams are celebrated. You climb with us to new heights and help us reach for the sky. You are a part of our inner circle, our extended family. You are an Anythink Foundation member. Welcome to the treehouse.”

– From the Anythink Foundation  
Membership Welcome Package

Thank you to our inaugural Anythink Foundation members.

Aaron Ott  
Alicia Peterson  
Allison Bailey  
Alyssa Ericksen  
Alyssa Howell  
Amy Bracy  
Amy Griffith  
Anastasia Maria McCune  
Anastasia McCune  
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Andrew Southard  
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Arthur Sanchez

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Jody Howard  
Jody Simpson



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