

Anythink Libraries
Request for Proposal (RFP)



Ritual Element Public Art
Anythink Libraries

Date issued: Monday, February 2, 2026
Response due: Saturday, March 14, by 5 PM MST



Community Profile

Anythink Libraries proudly serves the residents of Adams County, Colorado, and extends its reach beyond the county through outreach services.

Since its launch in 2009, Anythink has reimagined the role of the public library. It has grown into a space of unlimited imagination, where play sparks creativity, curiosity, and lifelong learning. Anythink is more than a library—it is a community hub where exploration and discovery are always possible.

Originally established as the Adams County Public Library, Anythink now operates as an independent library district overseen by a five-member Board of Trustees appointed by the Adams County Commissioners. Today, the district includes seven libraries serving over 540,000 residents. Anythink's innovative, award-winning approach to library service is recognized nationally and internationally as a model for the future of public libraries.

In the summer of 2026, Anythink will open its newest branch, the Anythink Nature Library. The Nature Library's vision is to help people find their place in nature. Grounded in the [Environmental Kinship Model](#) and shaped with insight from Indigenous and Native American leaders on the Anythink Nature Library Advisory Council, this experience-driven space invites visitors of all ages to explore their connection to nature through welcoming environments, hands-on TryIts, and guidance from knowledgeable experts — all within a community hub designed for learning, reflection, and discovery.

Anythink Libraries Mission Statement:

We Open Doors for Curious Minds

Anythink Libraries Values:

We are guided by these shared values in everything we do:

- Compassion for our customers and for each other
- Passion for our product
- Eagerness to learn
- Everyone is creative
- Optimistic attitude – we believe that anything is possible

Demographics of Anythink Service Area

Anythink serves more than 420,000 people in Adams County, Colo. Key demographics for Adams County are as follows:

Race and Hispanic Origin	
White (including Hispanic or Latino)	85.2%
Black or African American alone	4.2%

American Indian and Alaska Native alone	2.4%
Asian alone	4.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.3%
Two or More Races	3.4%
Hispanic or Latino	41.8%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	47.8%

Other Key Demographics	
Foreign born persons, 2016-2020	14.8%
Language other than English spoken at home	27.9%
Persons 65 years and over	11.0%
With a disability, under age 65	7.9%
Persons in poverty	9.4%

Scope of Work

Anythink is seeking an artist to create a permanent public art piece that will present an opportunity for visitors to participate in an individual ritual activity upon entering the space. The piece will be on permanent display at the [Anythink Nature Library](#).

- Anythink Nature Library
6811 E 136th Ave
Thornton, CO 80602

This project will serve as a meaningful, interactive experience that encourages reflection, connection, and a deeper kinship with the natural world.

The Four Learning Modes of Environmental Kinship

Learning Mode	Focus	Key Actions
Learning ABOUT Nature	The Inquiry	Inquiry, scientific study, research, and identifying species or systems -- peering at a leaf under a microscope to discover its secrets.
Learning IN Nature	The Tangible Experience	Exploration, physical movement, sensory engagement, and independent agency -- feeling the wind on your face and the soil in your hands.

Learning WITH Nature	The Spiritual Connection	Relationship building, connection, active participation, and spiritual reflection – watching a baby bird leave the nest for the first time.
Learning FOR Nature	The Reciprocity	Stewardship, guardianship, sustainable practices, and advocacy - gathering with neighbors to clean up a local waterway.

Anythink Nature Library Features

Designed for exploration in every season, the Nature Library offers a variety of spaces and experiences that help visitors connect with the outdoors in meaningful ways:

- **Indoor/outdoor programming spaces**, including a nature lab, a bright sunroom, and a calming dark room for both active learning and quiet reflection
- **Exterior gardens** that invite hands-on discovery as well as peaceful moments among plants
- **An open-air kinship garden** at the heart of the building, blending art, nature, and community
- **A one-mile loop trail** that winds through the property for walks, wonder, and fresh air
- **Nature-focused materials and TryIts** selected to spark outdoor learning and adventure
- **A café with indoor/outdoor seating**, perfect for gathering, resting, and enjoying the surroundings
- **A trailhead connection to the 140-acre Aylor trail systems**, expanding opportunities for exploration right from the library's doorstep

Artistic Ritual Element

At the heart of this work will be three prairie beings – each native to the Colorado grasslands ecosystem, each symbolizing a unique quality or emotional state - such as grounded, nurturing, or brave. Inspired by the ecology of the shortgrass prairie, some examples may include the prairie dog, bison, cottonwood tree, rabbitbrush,

or other native species. These elements are meant to represent not just the physical landscape, but the values and rhythms embedded in nature.

Community members visiting the library will be invited to engage in a simple ritual—choosing and touching the being whose essence or energy resonates with them in that moment. This quiet gesture offers an opportunity for introspection and a tactile connection to self, land, and story. Whether visiting once or returning often, each interaction becomes part of a larger communal experience grounded in nature and personal reflection.

This public ritual element will become a cornerstone of our community's experience at Anythink Nature Library, offering an enduring invitation to pause, reflect, and connect—both to the land and to oneself.

The final installation should be:

- Interactive and durable, able to withstand daily public use by hundreds of library visitors each day
- A complete entity without requiring alterations to the existing building architecture
- **No larger than 4 ft height by 4 ft width, with measurements including depth to be in accordance with ADA requirements**
- Accessible to people of all ages and abilities
- Rooted in place, drawing inspiration from the ecology, story and spirit of the shortgrass prairie landscape of Colorado
- Designed to support an ongoing ritual or contemplative practice, whether individual or communal

Content of Proposal

The proposal should include:

- Artist bio & resume to include portfolio of past work and a minimum of two professional references

- Letter of interest with acknowledgment of Anythink's Public Art Policy
- Concept proposal with scale drawings
- Material specifications
- Installation timeline
- Maintenance plan

Evaluation and Selection

- Evaluation and selection process will be completed in line with Anythink's Public Art Policy.
- Proposals will be chosen by a selection committee comprised of library staff, representatives from the arts community, and community stakeholders.
- Selection does not constitute endorsement of any viewpoint by Anythink or its staff, the Board of Trustees, or the Executive Director.

Anythink Public Art Policy

- [Anythink Art Policy - Anythink Libraries](#)
 - www.anythinklibraries.org/about.library-guidelines/anythink-art-policy/

Selection and Scoring Criteria

1. Alignment with the "Environmental Kinship" Model

Anythink Nature Library uses the *Environmental Kinship* guide as its primary design philosophy.

- **Connection to Nature:** Does the ritual element help people find their "place in nature"?
- **Spiritual/Kinship Connection:** The work must facilitate reflection, kinship, and healing. We imagine it as a ritual for our community to enjoy at each visit to the library.

- **Cultural Relevance:** Preference is given to proposals that honor **Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)** and demonstrate lived experience or deep knowledge of local Indigenous cultures (Cheyenne, Arapaho, Ute, etc.).

2. Community Engagement & Social Impact

Anythink prioritizes "non-traditional" library engagement.

- **Accessibility:** Is the ritual inclusive of different ages, backgrounds, abilities and socioeconomic standings?
- **Interaction:** How does the community participate in or experience the "ritual"?
- **DEIB Alignment:** Proposals are scored on their alignment with Anythink's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging strategic priorities.

3. Sustainability & Materiality

A high value is placed on the environmental footprint of the project.

- **Sustainable Sourcing:** Use of recycled, repurposed, or plant-based materials (e.g., bamboo, FSC-certified wood, recycled metals).
- **Longevity & Maintenance:** The durability of the materials and the ease of maintaining the element over time.

4. Professionalism & Feasibility

- **Demonstrated Accomplishment:** The artist's previous experience with public art or site-specific installations.
- **Budget & Timeline:** Alignment with the library's opening timeline (August 8, 2026) and a clear, transparent budget.

Scoring Rubric

Criteria	Weight
Nature Library Vision Alignment (Environmental Kinship/Ritual Concept)	35%
Sustainability (Materials & Environmental Impact)	20%
Durability & Accessibility (Realistic for Daily Public Use)	20%

Artist Qualifications and Lived Experience (References, DEIB Representation)	15%
Budget & Feasibility (Cost & Timeline)	10%

Anythink reserves the right to reject any and all proposals for any reason. Proposals lacking required information will not be considered. The award of contract is subject to approval by the Anythink Executive Director.

Thank you for your interest in partnering with Anythink. We look forward to reviewing your proposal and exploring how we can work together to create a meaningful and inspiring ritual art experience for the Nature Library.

RFP Logistics and Timeline

1. Proposals

- Anythink Libraries (“Anythink”) invites proposals from artists and creative collaborators for a permanent public art and ritual element for Anythink Nature Library. Respondents are directed to the Scope of Work and Deliverables in this RFP for details.
- Anythink Libraries will accept mailed and e-mailed proposals. Anythink Libraries will not accept proposals via fax.
- General questions should be directed to Maria Mayo-Peaseley, Anythink Nature Library Branch Manager, at:

Anythink Libraries
 5877 E. 120th Avenue
 Thornton, CO 80602
 Tel.: 303-405-3249

E-Mail: MMayo@anythinklibraries.org

2. Questions/Clarifications

- No oral interpretations shall be made to any respondent as to the meaning of any of the proposal documents. Every request for an interpretation shall be made in writing and mailed or e-mailed to the address listed above.
- Questions shall be submitted via email, and must be received by Saturday, February 21st, 2026, by 5 p.m. (MST)

- Anythink will provide written responses to the questions received via email by the deadline, which will be posted to the website on Tuesday, February 24th, 2026, by 5 p.m. (MST)

3. Optional On-Site Tour

- An optional on-site tour of the Nature Library for interested artists will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at:

Anythink Nature Library
6811 E 120th Avenue
Thornton, CO 80602

- RSVP for the tour to Maria Mayo-Peaseley at MMayo@anythinklibraries.org by Tuesday, February 10, 2026.

4. Proposal Deadline

- Proposals will be accepted until **Saturday, March 14, 2026, at 5 p.m. (MST)**
- Proposals containing three (3) hard copies *or* one (1) digital file (in pdf format) may be submitted by:
 - o email to MMayo@anythinklibraries.org or
 - o delivery in person at 5877 E. 120th Avenue, Thornton, CO 80602 or
 - o mail to Maria Mayo-Peaseley, Anythink Nature Library Branch Manager.

Anythink Libraries
Public Art Ritual Element RFP Selection Committee
Attn: Maria Mayo-Peaseley
5877 E. 120th Avenue
Thornton, CO 80602

- Any costs incurred by the proposer in the preparation of the proposal response are the responsibility of the responding agency or artist and will not be eligible for reimbursement.
- Selected artist will work in collaboration with Anythink staff for the installation of the ritual art piece.

5. Awards

- Concept discussions will be scheduled with Finalists for the week of March 23, 2026.
- Awards will be made to the selected artist on or before Friday, April 3, 2026.