



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear supporters,

It was an extraordinary year for the Denver Architecture Foundation (DAF), an organization dedicated to the exploration and experience of our great city by people of all ages. Please enjoy reading this annual report, the first since 2012, sharing the many ways we increased public awareness and appreciation for architecture and related fields in 2024. Throughout the year, the Denver Architecture Foundation inspired appreciation for the city's rich architectural heritage and dynamic present while championing its compelling future.

This was my first year at the helm, and I am honored to tally the foundation's successes and to reflect on the generosity of so many people to make it all happen. Specifically, I am grateful to our Board of Directors for this leadership opportunity, to all of you for your enthusiasm for our invigorated programming, and to our donors and funders for supporting our mission philosophically and financially.

Doors Open Denver 2024 made manifest DAF's mission to connect the places and the people that define our city. In a revitalized format, the 4-day festival showcased the city's architectural evolution under the theme of "Denver Through Time." Thousands of attendees engaged with buildings from our past, present, and future, deepening their understanding of how design shapes our Denver communities and improves our quality of life. We offered opportunities to visit or revisit favorite sites around the city, while opening new and different doors and inviting knowledge from new and diverse voices. Popular among the new programs were: a keynote lecture by a world-renowned architect and urban planner, a festive evening behind the doors of a private residential loft, and a public reception celebrating the winners and the artwork of the Y/OUR Denver Photographic contest. And, for the first time, we invited architecture offices to open their doors and showcase their past portfolios and future plans "on the boards." We thank our board members, sponsors, donors, cultural partners, and robust volunteer corps who ideated and implemented alongside us to make Doors Open Denver 2024 so special!

Our youth educational initiative, The Cleworth Architectural Legacy Project, also flourished in 2024. By introducing elementary school students to architecture and design thinking, DAF nurtures the next generation of diverse minds who will shape Denver's future skyline with their fresh ideas.

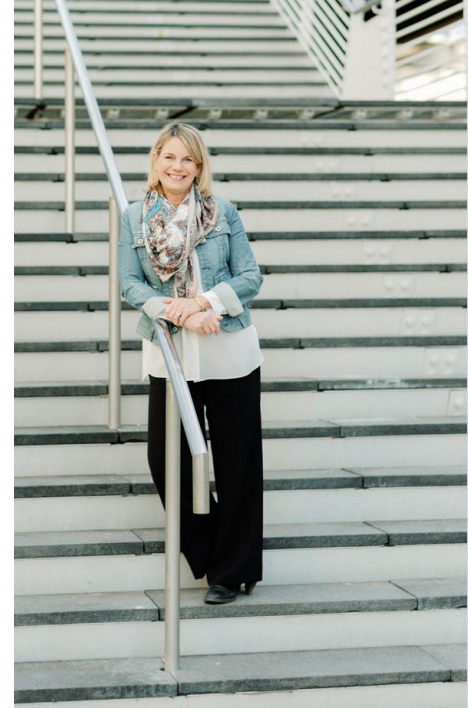
During the year, we initiated and hosted dozens of walking tours, hard hat tours, and even debuted a new series called "Beyond the Facade" in which leading architects share the back stories about their city-shaping work and guide behind-the-scenes tours of their offices and their ways of working.

Clearly, this extraordinary year would not have been possible without the dedication of many supporters. Your excitement, trust, and commitment make our work joyful. I strongly believe that the mission and relevance of the Denver Architecture Foundation is increasingly vital as Denver grows and goes forward. Thank you for being part of this journey in 2024, and we look forward to learning even more together in 2025.

With gratitude and anticipation for the year ahead,



Meg Touborg  
President and CEO



McKensie Coyle

# ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS



Denver Architecture Foundation offers year-round opportunities to engage with Denver's built environment through a variety of events. In 2024, we offered walking tours of new buildings and old favorites, offered Hard Hat Tours exploring new construction in the city, and heard from experts in three thought-provoking lectures about architecture and design in Denver and beyond. 2024 also saw the return of Doors Open Denver fully in-person for the first time since 2019.

## BY THE NUMBERS

4915

Total Participants

30

Walking Tours

5

Hard Hat  
Tours

3

Lectures

102

Activations during  
Doors Open Denver  
weekend



📷 Mickkail Cain

## ONE RIVER NORTH HARD HAT TOUR

One River North made national headlines for its innovative design featuring a canyon running through the center of the facade. Davis Partnership Architects led DAF members on a tour of the building as construction crews were finalizing interior finishes and completing the exterior details, over a month before the building was open to new residents.



# DOORS OPEN DENVER

Doors Open Denver is an annual festival celebrating the built environment. During our flagship event, Denver literally opens its doors to the public, inviting people behind the scenes of well known buildings, private spaces, and big ideas related to the built environment. 2024 marked the return of Doors Open Denver fully in person for four days of dynamic programming. Darrin Alfred, Curator of Architecture and Design at the Denver Art Museum, called the event one of his top 10 cultural moments of the year:



📷 The Unfound Door

"This year marked the much-anticipated return of Doors Open Denver, the Denver Architecture Foundation's annual celebration of the city's built environment, fully in person for the first time in four years. Under the leadership of Meg Touborg, the 2024 event was reimagined and revitalized, featuring walking tours, open sites, and a gala at the Populus hotel that highlighted Denver's architectural heritage and innovation. A standout addition this year was the inclusion of architectural firms opening their offices to the public, offering a rare behind-the-scenes look at projects currently in development. Doors Open Denver continues to connect communities to the creativity shaping the city's future, celebrating its past while inspiring its evolution."

— Darrin Alfred

## BY THE NUMBERS

# 3128

Total Participants

# 97

Volunteers

# 102

Events & Activations

- 55 Icon Events
- 17 Architecture Offices
- 21 Insider Tours
- 9 Special Events



## KEYNOTE LECTURE

Doors Open Denver weekend began with an important keynote lecture from Vishaan Chakrabarti, renowned architect, thought leader, and founder of PAU Studio, on the launch day of his newest book, *The Architecture of Urbanity: Designing for Nature, Culture, and Joy*.



## KICKOFF RECEPTION

Guests were welcomed into the unique private residence of Carla Hartman, granddaughter of Ray and Charles Eames and her husband, painter Carl Hartman to celebrate the opening of Doors Open Denver.



## GALA AT POPULUS

To close out the weekend, Populus opened their doors to Denver Architecture Foundation for a gala celebrating the hotel's completion and an inside look at the operations of the nation's first carbon-positive hotel.

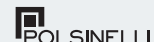
The Unfound Door

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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# YOUTH EDUCATION

The Cleworth Architectural Legacy (CAL) Project provides K-8 students with an engaging architecture education, helping them think critically about their built environment. Through collaboration with architects, engineers, and design professionals, students develop essential 21st Century skills, such as creativity, communication, and problem-solving. By integrating STEAM concepts, CAL makes learning fun and hands-on, fostering critical thinking through activities like designing park structures or community centers. Named after Denver preservationist Charles W. Cleworth, CAL honors his love for architecture and dedication to teaching children about the built environment. The program positively influences children by connecting them to real-world applications and offering enriching, interactive learning experiences that inspire a passion for architecture.

# 358

Total Youth Participants

## 2024 EDUCATOR TEAMS

Liz Reynolds | University Park Elementary (DPS) | SmithGroup

Matt Gibson | Hallett Academy | RATIO Architects

Kaitlyn Carson | McKinley-Thatcher Elementary | OZ Architecture

Kaitlyn Carson | McKinley-Thatcher Elementary | MOA Architecture

Carol Redmond | Cherry Creek Academy | HDR

Vicki Ortiz | Foster Dual Language Pk-8 | Rowland & Broughton

Stephanie Hultine | Foster Dual Language Pk-8 | Rowland & Broughton

Tony Lindsay | Hallett Academy | SAR+ (Shears Adkins Rockmore)

Carla Whitney | Hallett Academy | Davis Partnership Architects

Tamara Marocco | Lowry Elementary | Cuningham

Tom Williams | Lowry Elementary | Stantec

Mandy Horn | Lowry Elementary | Hord Coplan Macht (HCM)

Kirk Benson | Cherrelyn Elementary | 4240 Architecture

Angela Dire | Teller Elementary | BRS + JNS Team

Laura Hackney | Teller Elementary | Fentress + Populous Team

Anne Dailey & Jennifer Holdeman | Carson Elementary | HKS

Melissa McCalister & Jennifer Holdeman | Carson Elementary | Hollis + Miller

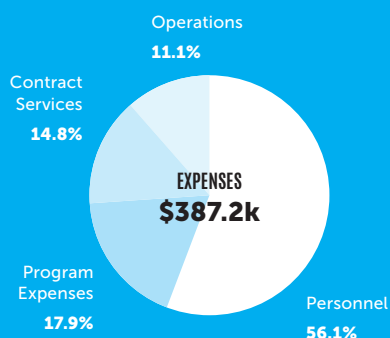
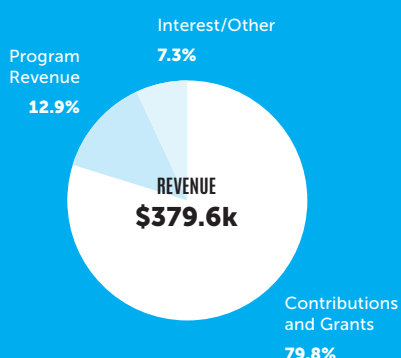




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## FINANCIAL INFORMATION



## THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

Architectural Education Foundation  
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Sheila Cleworth  
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Carla Hartman  
HDR Foundation  
Hodges Charitable Foundation  
Dennis Humphries  
National Endowment for the Arts  
Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD)  
Virginia Hill Foundation

At the heart of the Denver Architecture Foundation lies a profound focus on ensuring equitable access and the inclusion of diverse voices and perspectives into our programming. This commitment isn't a surface-level endeavor, it is woven into the very fabric of our operational policies and procedures, steering every aspect of the Foundation. We take deliberate steps to recruit, provide support for, and retain staff and board members who genuinely reflect a diverse array of lived and learned experiences. As a result, the foundation consistently champions diversity, equity, inclusion, and access - fostering these values as an integral and unwavering part of its identity.