Art as Destination
A Clear Vision with Emphasis on Fostering Inspiring, Welcoming, Accessible and Dynamic Places

Get to know new Library and Cultural Services Director Ginger White Brunetti

Following a national search, Ginger White Brunetti was selected to lead Aurora’s Library and Cultural Services Department and started in late February. She has over 25 years of experience in the public and nonprofit sectors, most recently serving as the executive director of the City and County of Denver Arts & Venues department, overseeing such staples as the Denver Performing Arts Complex, McNichols Civic Center Building, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Denver Coliseum, Colorado Convention Center, Denver’s Public Art Program, citywide cultural program and more.

In early April, White Brunetti shared her first impressions, how she envisions applying her expertise in Aurora, her vision for the Library and Cultural Services Department and more. Here are some highlights.

Key takeaways from initial month in the job: In the department, “there’s a palpable sense of purpose in bridging cultural divides, promoting literacy and making culture accessible to everyone, regardless of age, background or economic status. The spirit of collaboration within the department and across the city’s various agencies is remarkable. The team’s passion and dedication has been particularly striking. They are deeply committed to their role in serving the community. Their personal investment is the backbone of the department’s success, driving innovation and excellence in service delivery.”

About applying her previous experience to Aurora: “The skills and insights gained from my experience in Denver provide a robust foundation for leading Library and Cultural Services. By adapting these strategies to Aurora’s unique landscape, I am confident we can enrich the cultural and educational fabric of the city, creating a vibrant, inclusive and dynamic community.” And she speaks about three focused areas: innovative use of spaces, fostering a culture of excellence and creativity, and expanding resources and partnerships.

White Brunetti summarizes her vision for the Library and Cultural Services Department in five words: Well-resourced, Inspiring, Impactful, Dynamic, Innovative.

Learn more about Ginger White Brunetti, her vision, inspiration as leader and even about her favorite book, movie and more at AuroraLibrary.org. Look for the Q&A session on the news section.

ON THE COVER
“Umi” created by Daniel Popper. Photo by Daniel Popper, Copyright 2023 Mossphotography
Award Winning Public Art at The Aurora Highlands

The Aurora Highlands brought a great deal of creativity to the public art master planning process for its metropolitan district. The city of Aurora requires that developers working within metropolitan districts in Aurora integrate public art into their development and create a public art plan.

Carla Ferreira, director of on-site development and principal of The Aurora Highlands, drew upon her background as a graduate of the Otis Arts Institute, as she envisioned a unique opportunity to integrate art into the community in a way that would define this development as an art destination. She also drew upon her artist connections and their connections to pull together a distinctive group of individuals to help define Art in the Park at Hogan Park within this community.

Ferreira gave the artists freedom and trust, and the overall project began to grow organically. Artists responded to each other's planned pieces and the evolution of the landscape as their own ideas progressed. As a result, although the works are diverse in materials, content and aesthetic styles, visitors exploring Art in the Park will find that there is a special connectivity to be discovered along the journey. Completed and installed works include “Umi” by Daniel Popper, “Totem Triad” by Lisa Solberg, “Public Displays of Awareness” by Olivia Steele and two sculptures by Hunter Brown.

Ferreira jumped at the opportunity to join the Statues for Equity, an initiative Australian collaborative artist couple Gillie and Marc that seeks to address the strong gender inequality among bronze statues around the world. Researching historically important woman from this area, Ferreira selected Dr. Justina Ford, the first Black woman licensed to practice medicine in Colorado.

Among her many goals for public art at The Aurora Highlands, Ferreira hoped to define The Aurora Highlands as an art destination. Although there are still more artworks to come, this goal has already been achieved. Continuing plans include additional sculptures, events, experiences as well as a parking lot. The art here is available to everyone, not just the residents. A parking lot is needed to accommodate the growing interest.

The Aurora Highlands started 2024 by wrapping up multiple awards for their public art. They include an Arts Partnership Award from the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts, The Arts + Business Award from the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and the Gold Award for best Community Amenity from the National Association of Homebuilders. According to Ferreira, “These accolades reflect our ongoing efforts to create a community that not only boasts aesthetic appeal and functionality but also fosters a profound sense of belonging and inspiration among its residents and visitors.” For more information, visit TheAuroraHighlands.com/art-in-the-park/.

Congratulations to The Aurora Highlands!
**Ongoing Events**

**MAY**

4  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 20th Anniversary Celebration  
Saturday, noon to 4 p.m.  
Kalama Polynesian Dance, 1:30 p.m.  
Aurora Dance Hearts, 3:15 p.m.  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

10 and 11  
**Body Story – Art Dance** $  
Friday, 7:30 to 9:15 p.m.  
Saturday, 7:30 to 9:15 p.m.  
The People’s Building  
995 E. Colfax Ave.  
[Tickets for Body Story in Aurora from TicketLeap](#)

**Aurora Potter’s Guild Annual Spring Sale**  
Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Community College of Aurora, 16000 E. CentreTech Parkway  
[AuroraPottersGuild.com](#)

18 and 19  
**2024 Chalk Lines & Vines** $  
Saturday and Sunday  
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
25690 East Quincy Avenue  
[Tickets](#)

**Aurora Symphony Orchestra: Dancing in the Shadows** $  
Saturday, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.  
Sunday, 3 to 5 p.m.  
Overland High School Auditorium  
12400 E. Jewell Ave.  
[Tickets](#)

**All Ages Jazz Jam**  
Sunday, 1 to 3 p.m.  
The Peoples Building, 995 E. Colfax Ave.  
[AuroraCulture.org](#)

30  
**Summer Jams Presents: The Reminders**  
Thursday, 5 p.m.  
Del Mar Park  
1200 E. 6th Ave.  
[AuroraGov.org/Concerts](#)

**JUNE**

1  
**Opening Night: “The Lightning Thief: The Persey Jackson Musical”** $  
[Lighting Ceremony of Restored Fox Neon Sign (during intermission)](#)  
Saturday, 7:30 p.m.  
Aurora Fox Arts Center  
[AuroraFoxArtsCenter.org](#)

2  
**Aurora Symphony Orchestra: Chamber Works** $  
Sunday, 3 to 5 p.m.  
The People’s Building, 995 E. Colfax Ave.  
[Tickets](#)

8  
**Mosaic of Cultures: Aurora’s Nepali Community Opening Celebration**  
Saturday, 4 to 7 p.m.  
Aurora History Museum  
[AuroraMuseum.org](#)

18  
**Aurora Rhythms Presents: The Reminders**  
Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.  
Aurora Fox Arts Center  
[AuroraLibrary.org](#)

30  
**All Ages Jazz Jam**  
Sunday, 1 to 3 p.m.  
The People’s Building, 995 E. Colfax Ave.  
[AuroraCulture.org](#)

**Aurora Potter’s Guild**

The Aurora Potter’s Guild will host its annual spring sale at the Community College of Aurora on May 10 and 11. This event serves as a vital fundraiser for our pottery program, sustaining its existence and allowing it to thrive.

Despite recent challenges, our dedicated artisans have poured their hearts into creating unique handmade pottery crafted by talented local artisans. Whether you’re looking for functional pieces for your home or one-of-a-kind decorative items, you’re sure to find something special at our sale.

To learn more about the event and get a sneak peek at some of the pieces that will be available, please visit [AuroraPottersGuild.com](#).

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**A Mosaic of Cultures: Aurora’s Nepali Community**

Through April 6, 2025  
Aurora History Museum  
[AuroraMuseum.org](#)

**The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical** $  
June 1 - 23  
Aurora Fox Arts Center  
[AuroraFoxArtsCenter.org](#)

**Exhibits**

Jon Dunn, May-June  
- Martin Luther King Jr. Library  
- Pauline Fortuna, May-June  
- Tallyn’s Reach Library  
AIPP 30th Anniversary Exhibit, May-June  
- Aurora Municipal Center, Mezzani
Swing into Summertime with Aurora Dance Arts

Aurora Dance Arts is thrilled to unveil the exhilarating Summer Dance Program! The world of dance, this is a perfect opportunity to discover the vibrant Aurora Dance Arts community and explore new dance styles that might ignite a passion within you. Current students can keep their dance journey alive during the summer, ensuring they're all set to embark on the 2024-25 Continuous Program with renewed zeal and skill.

From the end of June to mid-August, the summer dance program offers various classes and camps catering to different interests and age groups, from the magical Fairytale Princess/Prince Camp for ages 4 to 6 to the adventurous Welcome to the Jungle Camp. The Beginning Level Sample, for ages 7 to 12, is perfect for those exploring different dance styles. For more advanced dancers, the Intermediate/Advanced Level Summer Dance Intensive is a thrilling opportunity to take your dance training to new heights. And that’s not all; the Friday evening master classes throughout June and August cover various styles, from floorwork and acrobatics to musical theater.

Level placement and enrollment specifications apply to many of the Summer Dance offerings. For more details, schedules and registration, please visit the Aurora Dance Arts website at AurorGov.org/Dance or call 303.326.8308.
Mornings at the Museum
Every Wednesday, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.
Spend the morning with your preschooler at the Aurora History Museum for stories, crafts and hands-on activities. A new drop-in program is offered every week. Free, no registration required; an adult must be present.

Fridays at Coal Creek Schoolhouse
Every Friday through Aug. 9, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.
Every Friday, the historic Coal Creek Schoolhouse will open for a family friendly, all-ages program with a different topic and presenter each week. Free, no registration required. Location: Coal Creek Schoolhouse, 15500 E. 1st Ave.

May Homeschool Day: Archaeology
Monday, May 13, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
May is Archeology and Historic Preservation month. Learn about the science, techniques and ethics used by professional archaeologists with this fun, hands-on lesson about archeology in the city of Aurora. Cost per participating student $7. Location: DeLaney Historic Site, 170 S. Chambers Road

June History Hike: The History of Fitzsimons and Anschutz Medical Campus
Saturday, June 1, 10 to 11 a.m.
Explore Aurora’s military past touring the Anschutz Medical Campus, formerly Fitzsimons Army Hospital. Learn why the hospital was located in Aurora and understand the contributions Fitzsimons made to the World Wars and the wars in Korea and Vietnam. Location: General's Park, 1561 Quentin St.

Tour of DeLaney Farm Historic District
Thursday, June 13, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Join Aurora History Museum and the High Line Canal Conservancy on a morning walk around the DeLaney Historic District. Learn about the history, wildlife and current uses of the DeLaney Farm property and the Canal that borders it. Be prepared for approximately two miles of walking on mixed surfaces. Location: Delaney Historic District 170 S. Chambers Road

DeLaney Historic District Cleanup and Open Day
Saturday, June 29, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Make a change in your community and learn about it at the same time. Tour some of Aurora's oldest buildings, the Gully House and the Round Barn and join the museum in cleaning up the historic site. Cleaning supplies and snacks provided by the High Line Canal Conservancy. No Registration required. Location: Delaney Historic District, 170 S. Chambers Road

Legendary Ladies of Colorado
Saturday, June 22, 5 to 6 p.m.
The Legendary Ladies are back! Learn about Maude Nelson, inductee into the Women’s Baseball Hall of Fame; Juana Navarro Alsbury, survivor of the Battle of the Alamo; Jessie Benton Fremont, adventurer, author and wife of John C. Fremont; and Josie Bassett, moonshiner, rustler and homesteader. Cost per person $5.

The Colorado Freedom Memorial
Wednesday, June 26, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Join Rick Crandall and the Aurora History Museum to learn about Colorado’s Freedom Memorial, located in Aurora, as part of the exhibit “80 Years Later: Aurora Remembers D-Day.” For details and registration, visit AuroraMuseum.org.
**Events at the Aurora Fox**

**America’s Hidden Gem: Northwest Aurora** $ Thursday, May 2, 6 p.m.
Through the lens of an inspirational and uplifting film, follow the journeys of five individuals as they navigate the complexities of life in Northwest Aurora, a community steeped in rich history and cultural diversity. This is a story of perseverance and triumph, where the promise of the American dream is not just a notion, but a lived reality.

**Shaun Johnson Stand Up Comedy Tour** $ Saturday, May 11, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Viral comedian Shaun Johnson is bringing laughs with his fiery Stand-Up Comedy Tour. Known for his hilariously relatable style, Shaun has sold out over 100 shows and is now taking his act to the next level. Don’t miss your chance to see Shaun Johnson like never before. Get your tickets today!

**Colorado Jazz Repertory Orchestra Jazz Presents: The Ladies of Soul with Tatiana LadyMay** $ Saturday, June 29, 7:30 p.m.
Experience the debut of The CJRO big band on the Aurora Fox stage, featuring national powerhouse Tatiana LadyMay Mayfield. The night promises an electrifying fusion of soul and R&B favorites, showcasing iconic tunes from legendary artists such as Aretha Franklin and Stevie Wonder. Titled “The Ladies of Soul,” this performance serves as a captivating finale for CJRO’s inaugural season at the Fox.

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**THE LIGHTNING THIEF: THE PERCY JACKSON MUSICAL**

**Book by Joe Tracz**
**Music & Lyrics by Rob Rokicki**
Adapted from the book "The Lightning Thief," by Rick Riordan
**Directed by Nick Sugar**
**Music Direction by Andrew Fischer**

**June 1-23, 2024**
Percy Jackson has 10 days to find Zeus’s stolen lightning bolt and bring peace to the warring gods of modern-day Mount Olympus. To succeed in his quest, Percy and his Camp Half-Blood sidekicks must do more than seize the true thief. He must come to terms with the father who abandoned him, solve the riddle of the Oracle and unravel treachery more powerful than the gods themselves.

With over 180 million copies sold, “The Lightning Thief” is based on Rick Riordan’s best-selling fantasy novels and is brought to life with dazzling special effects and a riveting pop-rock score. The show will capture your inner child and push your imagination to the limits.

**Content Advisory:** Appropriate for all ages
The Aurora History Museum and the Aurora Office of International and Immigrant Affairs are set to celebrate Aurora’s vibrant Nepali community with a new exhibition, “A Mosaic of Cultures: Aurora’s Nepali Community,” scheduled to open May 7, 2024. This exhibition is part of the “Mosaic of Cultures” series, which aims to promote understanding of the culturally diverse city of Aurora and incorporate the voices of local communities into the city’s history.

The exhibition is a unique opportunity to delve into the rich and vibrant aspects of the Nepali community, including their distinct music, art, dance, religion and traditional foods. By showcasing these unique cultural elements, the exhibition aims to raise awareness of the Nepali community’s significant contributions to the city’s history. It also aims to highlight the stories of individuals, business owners, and their cultural traditions and history within the Aurora community. The exhibit will feature cultural objects from the local community, archival images, interviews and immersive elements to bring the essence of Nepal to life.

The Nepali community in Aurora represents a rich tapestry of traditions, customs and cultural practices. From vibrant festivals to traditional music and dance, the Nepali community has added a unique and colorful dimension to the cultural fabric of the city. The upcoming exhibition will allow residents and visitors to learn about and appreciate the diverse cultural heritage of their Nepali neighbors. Learn more about this exhibit at AuroraMuseum.org.