Back to its original Glory
The Aurora Fox Arts Center neon sign is a visual landmark along East Colfax Avenue. The pink neon and turquoise-painted sign takes us back to the 1980s, when the movie theater was rebuilt after a 1981 fire gutted the lobby, severely damaging the interior.

Denver Architect Charles Strong designed the 1946 theater with a Streamline Moderne style lobby attached to a World War II surplus Quonset hut. After 40 years of patch repairs and exposure to the elements, the neon sign was restored to its original paint scheme. The city of Aurora through its Historic Sites program was the recipient of a State Historical Fund grant, covering a significant part of the costs to take this iconic sign back to its former glory. The restoration process began in the summer of 2023 and was finished the summer of 2024.

The city's Historic Preservation specialist and the sign company designer researched other Fox theaters nationally to determine their common color schemes in the 1940s. While a sign survey identified yellow on the tops of the F-O-X letters, it wasn’t until hand scraping the paint off the rest of the sign revealed yellow in other places as well as a light green accent color on the blade and bullnose.

Meanwhile, uncovering the original neon colors turned out to be quite elusive. After social media posts asked for recollections of the neon colors, people responded with every color in the rainbow. The Historic Sites specialist managed to contact the son of Shorty Hanger, owner of Hanger Sign Company, who worked on restoring the sign after the 1981 fire. Hanger’s son confirmed the original neon colors as he helped his father repair the Fox sign.

As part of the restoration process, the yellow upper marquee, which made its debut in the early 1960s, was replaced with white panels in keeping with the original design. The historic Snap-Lok letter attached to the aluminum tracks was also retained, and the neon tubing was reinstalled in early June. A lighting ceremony took place after the closing of “The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical” show to celebrate this beacon of Aurora that will greet people for the next 75 years as they drive down East Colfax Avenue. The Aurora Fox Arts Center is one of the city’s 34 historic landmarks, which alongside two historic districts and four cultural heritage sites, comprises the Historic Sites Program, to learn more, visit AuroraGov.org/HistoricSites.
“Colors,” by Susan Cooper, was installed in 2005 on the west facade of Jumping Jack Cash (southeast Corner of East Colfax and Dayton Street) within what was then called the East End Arts District. These seven back-lit panels identified the arts district and portrayed the art forms of music, photography, cinema, design, visual arts, literary arts and theatre. Like a lighthouse that helps guide you to shore, “Colors” announced your arrival into Aurora’s Arts District from 2005 to 2021. Then, a multi-car accident took out a good portion of the wall that supported the artwork and sadly injured five people.

Simply replacing the damaged panels was not a good solution for several reasons. The rebuilt portion of the wall is different from the portion of the original wall that remains; new panels presented alongside the older panels would not present a consistent visual experience; better solutions for materials and lighting are now available; and the designs could be refreshed to create a more vibrant and contemporary feel.

After assessing the situation, including discussions with the artist and with our fine art insurer, the Art in Public Places Commission determined the best way forward was to replace all seven panels. Upgrades include transitioning from florescent lighting to LED lighting, replacing the older polycarbonate sheets covered with colored film with contemporary polycarbonate where the color is integral in each panel, new frames, new electrical wiring, and design and colors that were not available in 2005.

According to the artist, “The new polycarbonate called ‘Lumicor’ offers the opportunity to create a sense of depth in the drawings, while the colors in the original images were flat. It also offers a wider range of colors and greater durability. It was exciting to be invited to participate in defining the way forward and developing an innovative solution.”

Andy Miller of Art Management and Planning (AMPA) fabricated and installed the new light boxes. He describes the results as “being one hundred times better than the original materials.”

This restoration was funded by insurance funds with additional funding from the Art in Public Places Program. Now, over two years after the accident, we are pleased to present this new version titled “More Color” for your enjoyment.

To learn more about the city’s Art in Public Places Program, visit AuroraGov.org/PublicArt.
**AUGUST**

2 and 3  
**Summer Jams & Storytime presents School of Rock**  
Friday, 6:30 p.m.  
Mission Viejo Park, 3999 S. Mission Parkway  
[AuroraMuseum.org](http://AuroraMuseum.org)

Open Day at Centennial House  
Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon  
Coal Creek Schoolhouse, 15500 E. 1st Ave.  
[AuroraMuseum.org](http://AuroraMuseum.org)

4  
**DeLaney Historic District**  
Sunday, 9 a.m. to noon  
DeLaney Historic District, 130 S. Chambers Road  
[AuroraMuseum.org](http://AuroraMuseum.org)

6  
**The Smoky Hill Trail Presentation at Aurora Public Libraries**  
Saturday, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. (Tallyn's) and 4 to 5 p.m. (Central)  
Tallyn's Reach, 23911 E. Arapahoe Road  
Central Library, 14949 E. Alameda Parkway  
[AuroraMuseum.org](http://AuroraMuseum.org)

17  
**Aurora Global Fest**  
Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Aurora Municipal Center Great Lawn  
[AuroraGlobalFest.org](http://AuroraGlobalFest.org)

20  
**Salome Songbird Folk Trio**  
Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 9898 E. Colfax Ave.  
[AuroraGov.org/Concerts](http://AuroraGov.org/Concerts)

25  
**All Ages Jazz Jam**  
Sunday, 1 to 3 p.m.  
Martin Luther King Jr. Library  
The Peoples Building, 9995 E. Colfax Ave.  
[AuroraCulture.org](http://AuroraCulture.org)

**EXHIBITS**

**AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
Malika Farmonbekova Art Exhibit  
MLK Jr. Library, July to mid-August  
Tallyn's Reach Library, mid-August

**AURORA HISTORY MUSEUM**  
Trolley Trailer #610 Exhibit  
10th Anniversary  
Through Sept. 2024

William Smith Exhibit  
Through Nov. 6, 2024

Mosaic of Cultures:  
Aurora's Nepali Community  
Through April 6, 2025

**JULY**

4  
**4th of July spectacular**  
Friday, 6 to 10 a.m.  
15151 E. Alameda Parkway  
[AuroraGov.org/Events](http://AuroraGov.org/Events)

12  
**Summer Jams & Storytime presents The Mountain Buddies**  
Friday, 6 p.m.  
Homestead Park, 23945 E. Florida Ave.  
[AuroraGov.org/Events](http://AuroraGov.org/Events)

28  
**All Ages Jazz Jam**  
Sunday, 1 to 3 p.m.  
The Peoples Building, 9995 E. Colfax Ave.  
[AuroraGov.org/Events](http://AuroraGov.org/Events)

30  
**Perpetual Motion**  
Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.  
Mission Viejo Library, 15324 E. Hampden Circle  
[AuroraGov.org/Concerts](http://AuroraGov.org/Concerts)

• **Summer of Imagination Celebrations** •

**Wednesday, July 10, 4 p.m.**  
Martin Luther King, Jr Library

**Thursday, July 11, 3:30 p.m.**  
Tallyn’s Reach

**Friday, July 12, 4 p.m.**  
Hoffman Heights

**Friday, July 19, 4:30 p.m.**  
Chambers Library

**Wednesday, July 24, 3:30 p.m.**  
Central Library

Details at [AuroraLibrary.org](http://AuroraLibrary.org).
**Art and Music** Classes and Camps

Summer camps are a fun and informal way for children to make art, music and friends while enjoying the summer. Each camp will have different projects; teens 13 and up are welcome in any adult art class.

Learn more about summer art and music camps and classes at [Summer Art Music 2024 final.pdf (civiclive.com)](AuroraMuseum.org). To register, visit [cityofaurora.perfectmind.com](cityofaurora.perfectmind.com).

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Tumble into **Autumn** with **Aurora Dance Arts**

Aurora Dance Arts will be releasing the 2024-2025 Continuous Children's Dance Schedule, progressive dance education for students ages 3 to 20, in early July. This nine-month program includes ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, choreography, dance conditioning, acro/tumble/floorwork, poms and hip-hop classes. Classes are from September to May, parallel to the school year, and culminate with large-scale Spring Dance Recitals, in which dancers learn dance choreography, wear costumes, and perform for a live audience on stage.

For more information, visit [AuroraGov.org/Dance](AuroraGov.org/Dance). Registration is processed through the Aurora Dance Arts office only, by calling 303.326.8308, and opens Aug. 5; classes commence Sept. 3.

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**Aurora Dance Arts’ UPCOMING AUDITIONS for “Alice in Wonderland”**

Aurora Dance Arts is excited to announce auditions for our upcoming autumn theatrical dance production of “Alice in Wonderland.” Auditions will be held Aug. 10 and 11 at Expo Recreation Center, 10955 E. Exposition Ave. Rehearsals will also begin in late August, and performances will take place Nov. 8-10 at the Aurora Fox Arts Center.

Learn more at [AuroraGov.org/Dance](AuroraGov.org/Dance), in the “Performance Opportunities” section.

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“Tilling the Soil, Cultivating Minds: William Smith's Legacy”

An early pioneer of Aurora, the life and legacy of William Smith shaped the city’s history. Originally from Scotland, William Smith came to the United States in 1878. By the mid-1880s, Smith operated a farm along the High Line Canal in the vicinity of what is now Sixth Avenue and Peoria Street.

Passionate about education, Smith donated land for Aurora’s first school and played an important role in the establishment of the local school district. In 1885 he was appointed secretary of the school board, a position he held for fifty years. Throughout the 20th century, Aurora honored Smith’s legacy: his home along the High Line Canal, and Aurora’s first high school, William Smith High School, were both recognized as a city of Aurora local landmarks in 1986.

Kid’s Education

**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.

**Coal Creek School Days**
Fridays, June 7 to Aug. 9, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

Drop-in, all ages programming every Friday, at our historic Coal Creek Schoolhouse on DeLaney Historic District. 15500 E. 1st Ave., near Chambers Road. Each week we will feature a new program from one of the City of Aurora’s cultural departments. Please be aware that there are NO RESTROOMS on this site. Please be prepared. No registration necessary.

- **July 5** - Weaving Craft with Aurora History Museum
- **July 12** - Ukulele Sing-Along with Leroy Leonard and Aurora Cultural Arts Education
- **July 19** - Creepy Crawlies with Aurora Naturalists
- **July 26** - Bookmobile Storytime with Aurora Public Library
- **Aug. 2** - Coyotes with Aurora Naturalists
- **Aug. 9** - “Dance for Everyone!” with Aurora Dance Arts

**Historic Sites**

**July History Hike: Beginning Birding at Jewell Wetlands**
Saturday, July 6, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Walk through a wetland area in the heart of Aurora. On this hike, we will learn about the basics of bird identification with the Audubon Society and discuss the community effort to protect the Jewell Wetlands Park. Jewell Wetlands, 13005 E. Jewell Ave.

**August History Hike: Coyotes at DeLaney Farm Historic Site**
Friday, August 2, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Visit DeLaney Historic District and learn all about the lives of coyotes as we walk around the property with a Naturalist from Aurora Parks Recreation and Open Space Department. Coal Creek Schoolhouse, 15500 E. 1st Ave.

**Open Day at Centennial House**
Saturday, August 3, 9 a.m. to noon

Learn about Aurora’s founding and the architecture of the Original Aurora neighborhood in Aurora’s own Centennial House. This Queen Anne style home was built in 1891 when Donald Fletcher was founding the town we now call Aurora. No Registration required. Location: Centennial House, 1671 Galena St.

**DeLaney Historic District**
Sunday, Aug. 4, 9 a.m. to noon

Explore Aurora’s early history and discover this hidden gem in the middle of our city. Visit the oldest remaining home in Aurora, see inside the unusual Round Barn and learn more about the family who lived in the DeLaney Historic District. No Registration required. Location: DeLaney Historic District, 130 S. Chambers Road.

**Lectures, Workshops and More**

**The Smoky Hill Trail Presentation at Aurora Public Libraries**
Saturday, July 6, various locations and times

Join us at your local library to learn about the adventure, hardship and excitement of the Smoky Hill Trail, one of the major routes that people used to travel from the East Coast to Colorado in the 1800s. This presentation will be hosted at Aurora Public Libraries.

- Tallyn’s Reach, 23911 E. Arapahoe Road, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
- Central Library, 14949 E. Alameda Parkway, 4 to 5 p.m.

**Summer Speaker Series: Medical Research in Aurora**
July 19 to 29. Various dates and times

Want to learn more about the work being done by doctors, nurses and researchers in Aurora? The Aurora History Museum is working with staff at CU Anschutz Medical Center to explore breakthroughs, exciting research and new technologies coming out of the state-of-the-art labs and facilities on the former Army base. Visit our website to learn more.
Summer concerts season in Aurora

Enjoy live music, unique performances and experiences every month throughout Aurora with Summer Jams and Storytime, and Aurora Rhythms - hosted by the city’s Library and Cultural Services Department. All events are free, and registration is required at AuroraGov.org/Concerts.

2024 Aurora Rhythms

- Perpetual Motion, an exotic blend of world music, progressive jazz and blues, Tuesday, July 30, Mission Viejo Library, 15324 E. Hampden Circle.
- Salome Songbird Folk Trio, original songs influenced by jazz, baroque, bebop and bluegrass, Tuesday, Aug. 20, Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 9898 E. Colfax Ave.
- Tom Pakele and Stevie guitar Glotzer, a guitar and harmonica blues duo, Tuesday, Sept. 10, Mission Viejo Library, 15324 E. Hampden Circle.
- C.L. Fondal, genre-blending music from Soul to R&B, to hip-hop, rock and blues, Tuesday, Nov. 19, Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9990 E. Colfax Ave.

Summer Jams and Storytime

Summer Jams and Storytime invites people of all ages to enjoy a story from the Bookmobile staff at 6 p.m. followed by live performances at 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy performances by the Mountain Buddies, Friday, July 12, at Mission Viejo Park, 3999 S. Mission Parkway. Groovy harmonica and guitar tunes for children.

Experience an exciting performance by School of Rock, the world’s largest and most trusted multi-location music school helping aspiring musicians master skills, unleash creativity and develop tools they need to thrive in life Friday, Aug. 2, Mission Viejo Park, 3999 S. Mission Parkway.
Global FEST
THE WORLD IN A CITY

A showcase of Cultures and Traditions

ARTS AND CULTURE IN AURORA

CITY OF AURORA LIBRARY AND CULTURAL SERVICES
Aurora Dance Arts
Multiple locations
303.326.8308 | AuroraGov.org/Dance
Aurora Fox Arts Center
9900 E. Colfax Ave.
303.739.1970 | AuroraFox.org
Aurora History Museum
15051 E. Alameda Parkway
303.739.6660 | AuroraMuseum.org
Art in Public Places
Multiple locations
303.739.6747 | AuroraGov.org/PublicArt
Aurora Public Library
• Central, 14949 E. Alameda Parkway
• Chambers Plaza, 1551 Chambers Road
• Hoffman Heights, 1298 Peoria St.
• Iliff Square, 2253 S. Peoria St.
• Martin Luther King Jr. 9898 E. Colfax Ave.
• Mission Viejo, 15324 E. Hampden Circle
• Tallyn’s Reach, 23911 E. Arapahoe Road
AuroraLibrary.org

Aurora Rhythms
303.739.6520 | AuroraGov.org/Concerts
Bicentennial Art Center - Pottery
13655 E. Alameda Ave.
303.344.1776 | AuroraGov.org/Pottery
Cultural Arts and Outreach
Music and visual arts classes at multiple locations
303.739.6591 | AuroraGov.org/Arts
Theatre classes at multiple locations
303.739.6520 | AuroraGov.org/Arts
Historic Sites and Preservation Office
15051 E. Alameda Parkway
AuroraGov.org/HistoricSites

OTHER ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS AND VENUES
Aurora Artists’ Guild
AuroraArtistsGuild.com
Aurora Cultural Arts District (ACAD)
303.913.7508 | AuroraCulture.org
Aurora Singers
303.343.3377 | AuroraSingers.org
Aurora Symphony Orchestra
303.877.6622 | AuroraSymphony.org
Community College of Aurora
Arts and Communication Department
303.340.7335 | CCAurora.edu
Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA)
1405 Florence St.
303.367.5886 | DavArts.org
Grand Design Inc.
303.355.2724 | GrandByDesign.org
Inside the Orchestra
303.355.7855
info@insidetheorchestra.org
Kim Robards Dance Inc.
303.825.4847
KimRobardsDance.org
The People’s Building (City Venue)
9995 E. Colfax Ave. | 720.819.6680
ThePeoplesBuilding.com
Red Delicious Press
9901 E. 16th Ave. | 303.366.2922
RedDeliciousPress.com
Roshni, Voice of the Voiceless
Multiple locations | 720.427.0404
RoshnisLight.org
Vintage Theatre Productions Inc.
1468 Dayton St. | 303.856.7830
VintageTheatre.com
Visions Performing Arts
720.620.2316
VisionsPerformingArtsCompany.org

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, Aug. 17
11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Aurora Municipal Center
AuroraGlobalFest.org

COLORADO CREATIVE INDUSTRIES
National Endowment for the Arts