2023 was full of new beginnings and memorable experiences. Aurora Public Library started off the year fine free and Chambers Plaza Library had its grand opening. The Bookmobile made its return in February and new art was installed at Central Library in March. In April, Aurora Public Library celebrated Aurora Scholars and the libraries celebrated National Library Week. Summer of Imaginations: Shared Stories kicked off in May and had a record 4,156 sign-ups. June kicked of the 7th Annual Aurora Craft Brews Tour and Summer Jams and Storytime, then Aurora Public Library announced its new identity in July. New Art Exhibits made its appearance at Central and Tallyn’s Reach Library in August, in partnership with Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art and Aurora Mini-Con made its in-person return in September. Yo Soy Arte: Calacas y Catrinas, in partnership with Denver Botanic Gardens, made its debut across the libraries with a kick to Hispanic Heritage Month. The inaugural Catrina Ball kicked off in November with the 28th Annual Gateway to the Rockies Art Show filling up the walls of Central Library. In December, the inaugural Merry Makers Market was held in conjunction with the city’s annual Holiday Tree Lighting, Angel Trees were placed throughout the libraries and Storytime and Toy Drive with the Grinch, Santa and Mrs. Claus rounded out the year.

For 2024, Aurora Public Library will continue to dedicate quality services and to create exciting experiences for the community.
HAPPENINGS AT APL

@AuroraLibraryCO

Storytime and Toy Drive with the Grinch
Saturday, Dec. 9 at Tallyn's Reach Library

Merry Makers Market
Dec. 5 at Central Library
NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB  
Tuesday, Jan. 2, 1 p.m., CEN  

OPRAH’S BOOK CLUB*  
Thursday, Jan. 4, 4:30 p.m., WebEx  
Follow Oprah’s book selections and meet-up virtually for lively discussions. This month is “Let Us Descend” by Jesmyn Ward.

BOOKS AT THE BAR*  
Saturday, Jan. 13, 1 p.m., 3095 S. Peoria St.  
Meet for lively discussions on popular and contemporary books. January’s title: “Demon Copperhead” by Barbara Kingsolver at A Bit Twisted Brewpub & BBQ.

DAYTIME BOOKLOVER’S BOOK CLUB  
Wednesday, Jan. 17, 10:30 a.m., CEN  

BOOK OF THE MONTH  
Tuesday, Jan. 30, 12:30 p.m., 30 Del Mar Circle  
Try out a new book! Every month, the Aurora Center for Active Adults will have a featured Book of the Month. Read the book and join us for tea and snacks to tell us what you think! January: “Spare” by Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex  
*Book copies are available through the Aurora Public Library

SHARE A BOOK CLUB  
Wednesday, Jan. 31, 10:30 a.m., MVL  
Share your favorite book of the month with your fellow readers! Books can be of any genre. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

LGBTQ+ BOOK CLUB  
Saturday, Feb. 10, 3:30-4:30 p.m., MLK  
Join to discuss queer books and authors from a variety of genres! Meetings are bi-monthly. February’s book is “The Memory Librarian” by Janelle Monae.

STAFF PICKS

“Never Let Me Go”  
by Kazuo Ishiguro

A science fiction novel about a group of students from an elite boarding school and how their “special gift” affects their lives. A suspenseful, compelling and moving story. - Charlie

“Defekt”  
by Nino Cipri

Defekt sends you into a world both similar and entirely different from your own. In this Ikea, furniture comes to life and not everything is as it seems. Derek, the protagonist, is discovering what it means to work and find your way in this world. This surreal yet playful novel is a quick read full of suspense! - Nisha

HAVE YOU READ THESE BOOKS?  
Share your thoughts on social media with #ReadWithAPL

*Registration is required via CityofAurora.PerfectMind.com
EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS

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Storytimes will take a break at Tallyn’s Reach Library from Jan. 2 - Jan. 13.

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LEARN AND PLAY
Tuesdays, 11 a.m., HOF
Wednesdays, 11 a.m., CHA/TRL
Free-form play group for children and their caregivers. Listen to music and play with early literacy toys while connecting with other parents.

MUSIC PLAYGROUP
Tuesdays, Jan. 16, 23 and 30, 11 a.m., TRL
Thursdays, Jan. 18, 25, 11 a.m., TRL
Freeform playgroup for kids 18-months- to 5-years-old and their caregivers. Play with musical toys and instruments while making new friends. Join every Tuesday and Thursday after Tots Tunes!

PLAY-BASED LEARNING
Fridays, 11 a.m., CEN
Parents will engage with their children in activities focused on process and play. This program is designed for children ages 2-5 to practice skills needed for kindergarten.

BABY PLAYGROUP
Fridays, Jan. 19 and 26, 11 a.m., TRL
Join for a freeform playgroup for babies 23-months-old and younger and their caregivers after Baby Storytime.

SENORY STORYTIME
Saturday, Jan. 27, 2 p.m., TRL
Join a sensory-friendly storytime. This is a quiet and welcoming environment for children to experience new sensory stimuli. Registration is not required.

KIDS

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITY
Tuesdays, 4 p.m., CEN
Join for a fun activity. Designed for students in first through fifth grade.

STEAM CLUB JR.*
Tuesdays, 4 p.m., TRL
Explore science, technology, engineering, art, or math! STEAM Club Junior is designed for our friends in first, second and third grades. The first Tuesday of the month will be a LEGO engineering challenge. Participants must be at least six-years-old at the time of the program to register.
KIDS - CONT.

CRAFTY CLUB
Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m., CHA
Hang out after school and make new crafts every week! Open to kids 6-11.

STEAM CLUB*
Tuesdays, 5 p.m., TRL
Explore science, technology, engineering, art, or math! STEAM Club Junior is designed for our friends in fourth through eighth grades. The first Tuesday of the month will be a LEGO engineering challenge. Participants must be at least 8-years-old at the time of the program to register.

BETWEEN THE NOTES
Wednesdays, 4 p.m., TRL
Free tutoring for young musicians learning cello, viola, or violin from teen players. Soon to expand to woodwind and brass! Participants must bring their own instruments. Please note: In the event of inclement weather, Between the Notes follows Cherry Creek School District’s directives for cancellations.

MATH HOMEWORK HELP*
Thursdays, 4 p.m., TRL
Do you need help with your math homework? Come get 1:1 help from local high school volunteers with great math skills. One-hour sessions in the Activity Room available. Days and times are subject to change based on volunteer availability; registrants will be notified with any updates.

CREATIVE MINDS CLUB
Thursdays, 4:30 p.m., HOF
Hang out with friends while playing with Legos, testing out science experiments or creating fun crafts. Open to kids 7-12.
  • Jan. 4: Legos
  • Jan. 11: Science
  • Jan. 18: Art
  • Jan. 25: Engineering

BOX IGLOO BUILD - KIDS ONLY!
Tuesday, Jan. 2, 4:30 p.m., TRL
Use your engineering and art skills to help finish the cardboard igloo for everyone to play this week! Open to kids in first through fifth grade.

SNOW SLIME*
Wednesday, Jan. 3, 4:30 p.m., MVL
Make fluffy slime that looks like snow.

POTATO PENGUIN CRAFT
Wednesday, Jan. 10, 3:30 p.m., ILF
Using a potato, kids can stamp out a penguin for a cute piece of artwork.

GLIDERS
Wednesday, Jan. 10, 4 p.m., MLK
Color and assemble a flying glider.

SCRATCH ART DOOR HANGERS
Wednesday, Jan. 17, 4 p.m., MLK
Make a scratch art door hanger with a rainbow of colors.

PERLER BEAD CLUB
Wednesday, Jan. 17, 4:30 p.m., MVL
Make a Perler bead (or “melty bead”) project to take home and keep from a multitude of video game or movie character patterns.

READ TO A THERAPY DOG
Saturday, Jan. 20, 10:30-noon, MVL
What better way to practice reading aloud than with a friendly dog? Call 303.326.8600 to register for 15-minute sessions.

TISSUE PAPER FLOWER ART
Wednesday, Jan. 24, 3:30 p.m., ILF
Using a printout, glue tissue paper dabbers to create a colorful flower.

COLOR A NATURE PUZZLE
Wednesday, Jan. 24, 4 p.m., MLK
Pick a nature puzzle to color and then put it together. Styles include puppies, sunflowers, flower baskets, stream with trees, seahorse, elephant, gecko and butterflies.

CLAY CLUB
Wednesday, Jan. 31, 4:30 p.m., MVL
Make creatures using a special clay that dries quickly into figurines you get to keep.

*Registration is required via CityofAurora.PerfectMind.com
LIBRARY GAME NIGHT: TEEN SESSION*
Fridays, 5:30 p.m., WebEx
Connect from home to play party games with others! Newcomers are welcome. This month:
• Jan. 5: Wits & Wagers, a trivia game of guessing the closest answer.
• Jan. 12: Code names, a team game involving clever one-word hints.
• Jan. 26: Patently Stupid, a game where you design bizarre inventions.

TEEN BOX IGLOO BUILD*
Tuesday, Jan. 2, 1 p.m., TRL
Help build an epic igloo using boxes from our new book orders for the little kids to play in during winter break. Open to teens in sixth through twelfth grade.

TEEN HANG
Thursdays, Jan. 4 and 18, 4 p.m., CEN
Come hang at Central Library! It’s your hour to do homework, create art, or play games! Snacks will be provided. Ages 12-18.

VIDEO GAME CLUB
Thursday, Jan. 4, 4:30 p.m., MVL
Hang out and play Switch games like Super Smash Bros, Mario Kart, Overcooked and more with other teens.

TEEN - BAD ART AFTERNOON
Tuesday, Jan. 9, 4:30 p.m., ILF
The challenge is to make the worst piece of art! The winner gets a prize.

DROP-IN BEATS
Wednesday, Jan. 10 and 24, 4-5:30 p.m., CHA
Teens can produce their own music using drumbeats, keyboards and music production software.

PAPERCRAFT CLUB
Wednesday, Jan. 10, 4:30 p.m., MVL

TEA TASTING
Thursday, Jan. 11, 4 p.m., CEN
Let’s get this par-tea started! Get out of the cold and join for a relaxing, cozy tea tasting. A variety of tea and snacks will be provided. Ages 12-18.

DIAMOND PAINTING STICKERS
Thursday, Jan. 11, 4:30 p.m., MVL
Diamond painting is like a paint-by-number, but with tiny plastic gems instead of paint. Stop by and make a few take-home stickers to keep.
TEEN MOVIE HANGOUT: “HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON”
Saturday, Jan. 13, 3 p.m., MVL
A fun movie hangout with free popcorn included! This month, watch “How to Train Your Dragon” (PG) and make a papercraft Toothless.

DIY ICE CREAM
Thursday, Jan. 18, 4:30 p.m., MVL
Make your own ice cream from scratch.

2024 PLANNER PARTY
Saturday, Jan. 20, 4 p.m., TRL
New year means new planner. Bring your own planner, bullet journal, calendar, or others! Coloring supplies, washi tape and free printables will be provided to get your year started right.

SHRINKY DINKS
Wednesday, Jan. 24, 4:30 p.m., MVL
Draw or trace a design onto special plastic paper then watch it melt and shrink into a hard plastic key chain you can keep! Suggested age: 8-15.

TWEEN HANG
Friday, Jan. 26, 4-5:30 p.m., CEN
Join for a fun sip and paint! Sparkling cider and art materials will be provided. This program is for tweens ages 10-18.

POKÉMON CARD TOURNAMENT
Saturday, Jan. 27, 3:30 p.m., HOF
Try to be the very best! We encourage attendees to bring their own card deck.

PAPER DRAGON HAND PUPPETS
Saturday, Jan. 27, 4 p.m., TRL
Following the TikTok trend, create your own Dragon Hand Puppet out of paper. Bring your artistic vision to make your dragon the way you want. Templates will be provided but are not required for puppet creation.

ADULTING 101
Wednesday, Jan. 31, 4 p.m.
Not sure about adulting? Arapahoe 4-H will navigate the different responsibilities adulthood has, such as money management, credit cards, retirement, job hunting and basic household skills. This is the first week out of a five-week series happening every Wednesday until Feb. 28.

MTG MEET-UP
Wednesday, Jan. 31, 4:30 p.m., ILF
Calling all Magic: the Gathering players, bring your decks and cards to play and trade.

TEEN ADVISORY GROUP (TAG)
Teens! Participate in your local Teen Advisory Group and let your voice be heard! Help create displays, plan programs and enjoy fun activities while earning volunteer time. Enjoy snacks and meet new friends, too!
- Thursday, Jan. 25, 4 p.m., CEN
- Thursday, Jan. 25, 4:30 p.m., MVL
- Friday, Jan. 26, 4:30 p.m., HOF

*Registration is required via CityofAurora.PerfectMind.com
FAMILY

WINTER READING CHALLENGE
Throughout Jan., TRL
Set your New Year’s Resolution and start off 2024 with a great reading habit. Families are encouraged to read together and set your own daily reading goals. Stop by the front desk at Tallyn’s Reach Library for your Winter Reading Calendar starting Dec. 23.

CHESS CLUB
Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m., HOF
Fridays, 4 p.m., TRL
Stop in for some friendly games of chess! Chess sets will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own.

AURORA CHESS CLUB
Saturdays, 10:30 a.m., CEN
Join the Aurora Chess Club for some friendly games of chess! Chess sets will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. Limited to ages 10 and up.

FAMILY BOX IGLOO PLAYTIME
Wednesday, Jan. 3 to Friday, Jan. 5, 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., TRL
Enjoy our igloo constructed by our teens and kid builders.

COZY CRAFTS
Thursday, Jan. 4, 4 p.m., MLK
Make scented crafts: orange and clove pomanders and lavender sachet bags.

NEON GLOW PAINTINGS
Thursday, Jan. 11, 4 p.m., MLK
Brighten your winter decor with a neon and glow in the dark painting. Canvases and paint provided.

FAMILY CHAOS CRAFTING
Wednesday, Jan. 17, 4 p.m., ILF
Challenge your family members to create the most chaotic craft with a variety of supplies that are provided.

PJ MOVIE NIGHT
Friday, Jan. 19, 5 p.m., HOF
Visit the library in your comfiest pajamas and bring your fluffiest blanket and pillows! Craft together as a family, and then let’s watch a family movie together, “The Little Mermaid,” with popcorn!

PARTY GAMES AND PIZZA
Friday, Jan. 19, 6 p.m., MVL
An after-hours lock-in at the library with pizza and party games galore. There will be stations with tons of games designed to get you laughing and shouting out answers. Most games are recommended for ages 8+.

PROJECT HELPING- DOG TOYS
Saturday, Jan. 20, 10 a.m.-noon, MLK
Project Helping’s mission is to improve mental wellness through accessible volunteer experiences that create purpose and community. Help Project Helping make tug toys for shelter dogs. Volunteers will learn how to make braided tug toys out of strips of fleece. Make one for a shelter pup and your own furry friend. Great for adults, children, or teens.

HOT CHOCOLATE AND COLORING
Tuesday, Jan. 23, 4:30 p.m., ILF
Come by and for some hot chocolate and relax with a coloring sheet. Hot chocolate and coloring sheets provided.

TRIVIA AND TREATS
Friday, Jan. 26, 4:30 p.m., MVL
See how much you know and take part in a fun and silly trivia game! A variety of treats and refreshments are provided.

FABRIC WREATHS
Saturday, Jan. 27, 10 a.m.-noon, MLK
Hand craft an original wreath with fabric scraps tied onto a circular frame. Cut out the colors of your choice and make a fun decoration. Fabric and wreath frames provided. Please bring fabric scissors, as supplies may be limited. Children may attend with a parent or guardian.
Adult - DIY

PAINT AND CHILL
Saturdays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., CHA
Stop by to create a work of art at your own pace. Supplies provided.

COFFEE AND COLORING
Mondays, 10:30 a.m., MVL
Tuesday, Jan. 2, 10:30 a.m., ILF
Tuesday, Jan. 30, 10:30 a.m., ILF
Color and engage in conversations about books, movies, current events and life! Coffee and coloring sheets provided.

PAINT A BIRD FEEDER*
Wednesday, Jan. 3, 4:30 p.m., ILF
Come in and paint a bird feeder home for a feathery friend.

KNITTING CIRCLE
Wednesday, Jan. 10, 10:30 a.m., MVL
Knit along with fellow enthusiasts! Bring your own knitting supplies and share your creations. If you're not a knitter, bring along any craft you wish.

SELF-GUIDED PAINT
Saturday, Jan. 20, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., ILF
Create a painting at your own pace. Supplies provided.

ADULT ART: WINTER WATERCOLOR
Saturday, Jan. 20, 4 p.m., MVL
A relaxing amateur art class for adults. This month use watercolors and stencils to create icy winter silhouettes.

VITALANT BLOOD DRIVE
Monday, Jan. 22, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., TRL
Donate blood to Vitalant, one of the nation’s largest nonprofit blood and biotherapies healthcare organizations, providing hospitals and patients across the U.S. a safe blood supply. Registration encouraged.

BLOCK OF THE MONTH
Monday, Jan. 29, 4-6 p.m., HOF
Interested in quilting? Join every month to create a quilt block!

Adult - Get Social

VIRTUAL CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP*
Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m., WebEx
Do you enjoy creative writing? Are you working on your own fiction project? Join this group of writers in a weekly virtual meeting to discuss projects and improve their craft.

SEED CLEANING AND PACKING
Thursdays, 3-5:30 p.m., CEN
Give the seed library a hand at cleaning 2023 seeds for the 2024 growing season.

MOVIE NIGHT: WELCOME TO MY CULT CLASSIC*
Fridays, 6-8 p.m., CEN
Jan. 5: “Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow” (PG)
   “Could we just die for once without all this bickering?”
   “We are all animals, m’lady.”
Jan. 26: “Labyrinth” (PG)
   “You remind me of the babe (what babe?)”

LIBRARY GAME NIGHT: ADULT SESSION*
Fridays, 8 p.m., WebEx
Connect from home to play party games with others! Newcomers are welcome. This month:
   • Jan. 5: Wits and Wagers, a trivia game of guessing the closest answer.
   • Jan. 12: Code names, a team game involving clever one-word hints.
   • Jan. 26: Patently Stupid, a game where you design bizarre inventions.

TALLYN’S WRITING GROUP*
Friday, Jan. 19, 4:30 p.m., TRL
Novel or memoir, stage or screen. Wherever your creative juices flow, join for a discussion of the craft and culture of writing. This month’s theme: Point of View.

*Registration is required via CityofAurora.PerfectMind.com
COLORING AND PUZZLING
Thursday, Jan. 25, 2 p.m., TRL
Do you enjoy coloring books or puzzles? Join this group for a calm place to practice your coloring or help us put together a puzzle. Unlimited tea will be provided!

HARRY POTTER TRIVIA*
Saturday, Jan. 27, 3:30 p.m.
Calling all witches and wizards! Join for an afternoon of trivia fun and show off your knowledge of all things Harry Potter! Winner will get a prize.

Adult - The More You Know

COMPUTER TUTORING
Hoffman Heights Library—by appointment—call 303.739.1572
Tallyn’s Reach Library—by appointment—call 303.627.3050
Martin Luther King Jr Library—Thursdays, 2-4 p.m.—call 303.739.1940
One-on-one instruction from computer basics to Microsoft Word, Excel or PowerPoint. Call for available dates and times to register.

DROP-IN THERAPY
Hoffman Heights Library—by appointment—call 303.739.1572
Spark the Change Colorado is offering free, on-site therapy sessions! Whether you are experiencing a situational problem or have mental health concerns, they are here to help. All sessions are private and confidential. Please call 303.739.1572 for more information or to register.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES/ CLASES DE CONVERSACIÓN EN INGLÉS
Mondays, 4:30 p.m., CEN
Saturdays, 2 p.m., CEN
Practice speaking and listening with others in English. Free, walk-in classes. For more information, call 303.739.6630.

LEGAL CLINIC
Tuesday, Jan. 2, 3:30 p.m., CEN
Free Legal Clinic via computer for those with no attorney. No registration is required, and the clinic is on a first-come, first-served basis and is strictly informational. Please head to Adult Services for the clinic. For more information, call 303.739.6630.

HOW TO READ LIBRARY BOOKS ON YOUR NEW DEVICE
Saturday, Jan. 6, 10:30 a.m., MVL
Did you get a fun new eReader, tablet, or smartphone for the holidays? Let us help you get started with library apps that will let you read books or listen to audio books on the go.

HUNGER FREE COLORADO: APPLY FOR SNAP AND FOOD ACCESS RESOURCES
Monday, Jan. 8, 1 p.m.-6 p.m., CEN
Hunger Free Colorado can assist with screening for all federal nutrition programs, offer referrals to food pantries and free meals, provide information on child and senior nutrition programs and answer any questions about food assistance.
NEW YEAR, NEW JOB!*  
Wednesday, Jan. 10, 3 p.m., CEN  
Looking for a new job? This class will teach patrons how to use Aurora Public Library databases, such as JobNow and Job and Career Accelerator, to improve your prospects.

BEGINNING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY: GENEALOGY 101  
Saturday, Jan. 13, 2 p.m., CEN  
Have you always wanted to organize your family tree? Are you unsure of how to get started? Work with the Aurora Genealogical Society to uncover the absolute basics of researching and organizing your family history.

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY MASTER GARDENERS PRESENTS: VEGETABLE GARDENING BASICS  
Tuesday, Jan. 23, 6 p.m., CEN  
Learn about various gardening topics, presented by our local Master Gardeners!

INTRO TO GOOGLE DRIVE*  
Wednesday, Jan. 24, 3 p.m., CEN  
Not so tech savvy? Learn the basics of navigating Google Drive, including Gmail, docs and more! Please note that while this is an intro course, patrons should be familiar with using a keyboard and mouse.

FRAUD PREVENTION: TRENDING SCAMS TARGETING COLORADANS  
Saturday, Jan. 27, 11 a.m., MVL  
Learn about current scams that are happening in our area so that you can better protect yourself. Presented by AARP.

UNIQUE SODA TASTING, PART 2*  
Saturday, Jan. 27, 1:30 p.m., TRL  
Did you miss Part 1? Here is your second chance to try unique sodas from around the world! All brand-new selections.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY ON COLORADO GIVES DAY

On behalf of the Friends of Aurora Public Library, the library would like to thank library patrons and the Aurora community for their generosity during Colorado Gives Day. Thanks to the benevolent donations, the Friends of Aurora Public Library received $6,250.79! The Friends of Aurora Public Library always welcome donations both of used books and monetary throughout the year. Visit the Book Outlet store at 2243 S. Peoria St., open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or online at FAPL.info.

Become a Member of Friends of the Aurora Public Library
Annual membership rates are as low as $10! Membership benefits include 10% discount and the ability to volunteer at the Book Outlet. You can join by stopping by the Book Outlet and filling out a membership form. Learn more at FAPL.info/membership.