



ANNUAL REPORT

2025-26

50

YEARS STRONG.



**COURTESY
& RESPECT**



HONESTY & TRUST

**CONSISTENCY
& SERVICE**

TABLE OF CONTENTS



AURARIA CAMPUS
— EST. 1976 —

Land Acknowledgment **04-05**

A Message from the CEO **06-07**

Budget **08-09**

Executive Summary **10-19**

Strategic Plan **20-35**

AURARIA CAMPUS

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Denver, CO 80204

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AURARIA CAMPUS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

As we gather today, we honor and acknowledge that the Auraria Campus is on the traditional territories and ancestral homelands of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Nations. This area was also the site of trade, hunting, gathering, and healing for many other Native Nations: The Lakota, Ute, Kiowa, Comanche, Apache, Shoshone, and others.

We recognize the Indigenous peoples as the original stewards of the land, water, plants, and animals who called this place home. As these words of acknowledgment are spoken and heard, the ties that these nations have to their traditional homelands are renewed and reaffirmed. Let us also acknowledge the painful history of genocide and forced removal. We respect the many diverse Indigenous peoples still connected to this land on which we gather. We pay our respect to them and give thanks to all Tribal Nations and the ancestors of this place.

We also want to recognize the community and families of Auraria who lived, worked, and worshiped at Auraria. One of the two original settlements in the mid-1800s that later formed greater Denver, Auraria nurtured immigrants, businesses, and families. Many of the oldest buildings of Auraria continue to exist and add beauty and significance to this land.

The decision to use this historically rich location in order to create a permanent home for Community College of Denver, Metropolitan State University of Denver, and University of Colorado Denver was a difficult one. Let us honor the sacrifice of Aurarians and acknowledge their contribution in order for public higher education to flourish in Denver.



THE AURARIA HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER OWES A SPECIAL THANKS TO HISTORIC DENVER, INC., A PRIVATE, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHICH RAISED NEARLY ONE MILLION DOLLARS TO RESTORE THE NINTH STREET HOUSES, SLATED FOR DEMOLITION WHEN THE CAMPUS WAS BUILT. OVER 900 INDIVIDUALS,

CORPORATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS PARTICIPATED IN THIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT.

LANDSCAPING OF THE THREE-ACRE PARK WAS PROVIDED THROUGH GRANTS FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND, A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE COLORADO DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION AND THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

NINTH STREET PARK IS LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES AND HAS BEEN DESIGNATED A HISTORIC DISTRICT BY THE DENVER LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION.

THE AURARIA FOUNDATION
AUGUST, 1990

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Auraria Campus reached an important milestone in 2026 as we celebrate 50 years of serving Colorado's higher education community as the home of the Metropolitan State University of Denver, University of Colorado, Denver, and Community College of Colorado. I am incredibly proud of the progress we have made together over the past year and of the strong foundation we are building for the future. This annual report tells the story of an organization that continues to evolve by investing in our campus, strengthening partnerships, and creating an environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors can thrive.

Guided by our strategic priorities of Exemplary Service, Vibrant Environments, Activated Partnerships, and Sustainable Funding, FY 2025-26 was marked by meaningful progress across every area of our organization. Our teams remained focused on delivering exceptional service. From responding to more than 5,300 public safety calls and completing over 5,700 facilities work orders to resolving thousands of technology requests and welcoming 40,000 students at the start of the academic year, these accomplishments reflect the dedication of the people who make our campus operate each day.

This year also marked significant milestones that will shape Auraria for generations to come. After a September 2025 ground breaking ceremony, construction officially began on the new Campus Safety Center, bringing us one step closer to a state of the art facility that will strengthen safety and emergency response across campus. We proudly celebrated the groundbreaking of the new Merage Early Learning Center while continuing to build philanthropic support for this transformational project. Across campus, major infrastructure investments, including new solar installations, energy efficient building upgrades, and the continued restoration of our historic facilities, demonstrate our commitment to sustainability, stewardship, and long term resilience.

Just as importantly, Auraria continued to come alive through experiences that foster connection and belonging. Signature events such as the Denver Christkindlmarket and Outside Days welcomed thousands of visitors while showcasing Auraria as one of Denver's most vibrant public spaces. Projects including Vibrant Entrances, Tivoli Reimagined, the dedication of the Golda Meir Memorial Garden, and new public art installations continue transforming our shared campus into a more welcoming and engaging destination for students, employees, and visitors alike.

These accomplishments were made possible through the strength of our partnerships. Working alongside our three higher education institutions, state leaders, community organizations, donors, and campus stakeholders, we continued advancing initiatives that expand opportunity, strengthen the student experience, and position Auraria for continued success. Together, we also broadened the reach of the Auraria story, generating nearly 900 media mentions and 2.9 billion media impressions that helped showcase the impact of our campus across Colorado and beyond.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on a campus that is welcoming, innovative, and prepared for the next 50 years. The momentum of this past year has created an extraordinary foundation, and I am excited to continue advancing projects that enhance the student experience, strengthen our campus community, and ensure Auraria remains a place where opportunity, belonging, and innovation flourish.

To our students, faculty, staff, partners, supporters, and friends, thank you for your dedication, collaboration, and belief in our collective mission. Together, we are building something extraordinary, and I look forward to all we will accomplish in the year ahead.



Sincerely,

Colleen

BUDGET

Auraria Campus is funded through two main mechanisms, the Colorado state direct appropriation and auxiliary revenue. The state appropriated funds make up 40% of Auraria Campus' budget, and auxiliary services comprise 60% of Auraria Campus' budget.

The chart on the following page illustrates Auraria Campus' preliminary summary of revenues and expenses. A key component of this summary is the differentiation of operating and non-operating activities. Operating revenues are received for providing goods and services to the various customers and constituencies of the Auraria Campus. Operating expenses are paid to acquire or produce goods and services to carry out the mission of the Auraria Campus. Non-operating revenues and expenses include interest expense on capital debt, state support for pensions, and investment income.



FY 2025-26 PRELIMINARY BUDGET SUMMARY

REVENUES	CURRENT YTD ACTUAL
Direct Appropriation	\$29,545,253
Auxiliary Enterprises	\$28,242,851
Non-Appropriated Services	\$7,003,041
Student Fees	\$4,895,457
Other General Fund Operating Revenue –Auxiliary and Other Support	\$5,984,476
Deferred Maintenance	\$1,889,789
TOTAL REVENUES*	\$77,560,868

EXPENDITURES	CURRENT YTD ACTUAL
GF Operations & Maintenance of Plant	\$35,301,743
Auxiliary Enterprises & Bonds	\$26,269,128
Non-Appropriated Services	\$6,797,261
Auxiliary Support of General Fund	\$4,399,516
Deferred Maintenance	\$1,889,789
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$74,657,436

**Total Revenues do not reflect state appropriated funds for capital construction, or RTD CollegePass and EcoPass programs.*

ABOUT THE AURARIA CAMPUS

The Auraria Campus was created to house and serve 15,000 students, a number we exceeded when we opened our doors in 1976. Auraria Campus has continued to adapt and grow to become a modern campus bustling with activity in the heart of downtown Denver. Today, the Auraria Campus is the largest collective college campus in Colorado, serving approximately 49,000 students, faculty and, staff. Auraria Campus proudly operates on an efficient shared services model to support students of three of Colorado's finest higher educational institutions: Community College of Denver (CCD), Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver), and University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver).

As a separate state entity, Auraria Campus exists to provide shared services, oversee facilities, and steward this exceptional state-owned property to support Colorado's leading institutions in achieving their goals.

Campus Services:

- Acquisition and Property Management
- Auraria Campus Police Department
- Auraria Early Learning Center
- Auraria Library
- Auxiliary Services
- Auraria Sustainability Program
- Campus Planning & Development
- Classroom Scheduling and Media Support
- Commercial Lease and Contract
- Cultural and Community Engagement
- Emergency Management
- Facilities Services
 - Building Access Control
- Golda Meir House Museum
- Information Technology and Telecommunications
- Kenneth King Performing Arts Center
- Mail Services
- Negotiation/Management
- Parking and Transportation Services
- Special Events
- Student ID and Pop-up operations
- Tivoli Student Union
- Internal Support Services:
 - Business Operations & Financial Management
 - Human Resources
 - Marketing and Campus Relations
 - Procurement & Distribution
 - Strategy and Department Services



ZURARIA
CAMPUS



FALL 2025

STUDENT

POPULATION DATA

The Auraria Campus is proud of its diversity, with each institution continuing to set a high standard for minority representation.

Starting in the 2024-25 fiscal year, MSU Denver, CU Denver, and CCD were all designated as Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) by the U.S. Department of Education at the same time. Additionally, CU Denver was also designated as an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI) starting in 2023.

CCD officially received its HSI designation for the first time in 2001, and Latinx students make up approximately 37% of their current student population. They have continued to lead the way for the past 25-plus years with enrolling and graduating Latinx undergraduate students. MSU Denver officially received their first HSI designation in 2019. Currently, Hispanic/Latina/o/x students represent 37% of its enrolled undergraduate student body. CU Denver regained its HSI designation in 2024, and currently have 28% of its student population identifying as Hispanic. They officially received an AANAPISI designation for the first time in 2023 and have maintained it each year since. They currently have 13% of its student population representing Asian/ Pacific Islander.

While these designations place an importance on retaining and graduating the institutions' Hispanic/Latina/o/x students and Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander students, it also provides opportunities to create and implement better and more effective practices aimed at retaining and graduating all students.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF DENVER

12,219
STUDENTS

Gender % of Enrollment

63 % Female

37 % Male

Race % of Enrollment

37%

32%

11%

6%

5%

4%

4%

1%

METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

18,336
STUDENTS

Gender % of Enrollment

51% Female

44 % Male

5%

Race % of Enrollment

41%

37%

9%

4%

6%

1%

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

13,853
STUDENTS

Gender % of Enrollment

56 % Female

42% Male

2%

Race % of Enrollment

42%

28%

8%

13%

7%

1%

Race/
Ethnicity
Key

Asian/Pacific
Islander

Black/African
American

Hispanic/
Latino

Native
American

White

International

Bi/Multiracial

Unknown

HOW AURARIA CAMPUS IS GOVERNED

Auraria Board of Directors

The Auraria Board of Directors is comprised of eleven members. Nine are voting members:

- Three are appointed by the Governor of Colorado.
- Three who are the chief executive officers of the governing boards of the three institutions (CCD, MSU Denver, CU Denver) who share the Auraria Campus or their designees, who are limited to the presidents/chancellor of the three institutions.
- Three are appointed respectively by the Regents of the University of Colorado; the Board of Trustees for Metropolitan State University of Denver; and the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education.

Two are non-voting members:

- An elected member from the Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board (SACAB)
- An elected member from the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board (FACAB)



MEMBERS OF THE AURARIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Angie Rivera-Malpiede

Governor Appointee



Janine Davidson

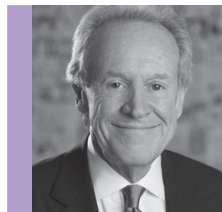
Metropolitan State
University of Denver

President



Paul Washington

Governor Appointee



Jerry Glick

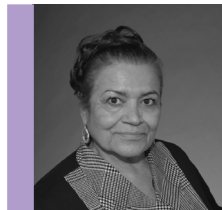
Columbia Group

Trustee, MSU Denver



Kara Powell

Governor's Appointee



Yolanda Ortega

MSU Denver Emerita VP of
Student Affairs

*State Board of Community
Colleges & Occupational
Education Appointment*



Kenneth T. Christensen

University of Colorado Denver

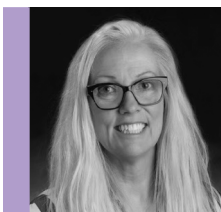
Chancellor



Peter Lindstrom

Community College of
Denver

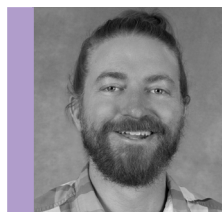
*Interim President &
Provost*



Callie Rennison

University of Colorado

CU Regent



Adam Glick

Community College of Denver

FACAB Representative



Jared Bynum

CU Denver

*SACAB Representative
Spring 2026*



Rowan East

MSU Denver

*SACAB Representative
Fall 2025*

**AURARIA
IS FOR
GROWTH**

AURARIA
CAMPUS

FY 2025-26 FACAB & SACAB

Faculty Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board

Purpose: The purpose of FACAB is to represent the faculty at CCD, MSU Denver, and CU Denver, and to advise the Board about policies and issues affecting the faculty. FACAB is the primary conduit of communication between the Board, the AHEC CEO, and the faculty.

Composition: FACAB consists of two regular, full-time faculty members from each of the three institutions. FACAB members serve for a two-year term. Each institution determines the method by which its FACAB members are elected and are responsible for filling mid-term vacancies.

FACAB Members:

- Mike Jacobs, MSU Denver Representative
- Zsuzsa Balogh, MSU Denver Representative
- Adam Glick, CCD Representative (ABOD Rep)
- Mark Broyles, CCD Representative
- Katy DiVittorio, CU Denver Representative
- Diana White, CU Denver Representative

A Voice at the Table

After years of advocacy and collaboration, FACAB and SACAB celebrated a significant milestone in 2025-26. Senate Bill 26-034, which gives faculty and student representatives voting status on the Auraria Board, expands faculty representation on FACAB, and makes student service on the board more accessible by reducing the residency requirement. The legislation represents an important step forward in ensuring that the voices of students and faculty are meaningfully represented in decisions affecting the Auraria Campus. Their persistence and commitment to strengthening shared governance helped make this long-standing goal a reality.

Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board

Purpose: SACAB endeavors to support a quality educational experience by providing a balanced representation of all campus individuals and their constituent academic institutions. SACAB provides an advisory role to the Auraria Board of Directors to represent the opinions and interests of students from the three institutions.

Composition: SACAB consists of two elected or appointed members from each of the three institutions.

SACAB Members:

CU DENVER

- Jared Bynum | Chair Fall 2025 | ABOD representative Spring 2026
- Evangelina Gonzalez | Vice Chair 2025-2026

CCD

- Dom Deibert | Chair Spring 2026
- Devin Dewey Hutchings | Spring 2026
- Isaías Salazar | Fall 2025
- Jasmine Lovato | Fall 2025

MSU

- Fae Berry | Spring 2026
- Sky Childress | Spring 2026
- Cy Holt | Fall 2025
- Rowan East | ABOD Representative Fall 2025

AURARIA CAMPUS

ORG CHART

Executive Team

The Executive Team oversees every department within the Auraria Campus.

Executive Team Members:

- Colleen Walker, Chief Executive Officer
- Zach Hermesen, Chief Financial Officer
- Skip Spear, Chief Administration Officer and General Counsel
- Sophia Tran, Chief of Staff
- Liz Mendez, Chief Operations Officer
- Jason Mollendor, Chief of Auraria Campus Police Department
- Carl Meese, Deputy Chief of Planning and Sustainability
- Lulu Lantzy, Chief Activation Officer
- Kathleen Hughes, Senior Executive Assistant



IMPLEMENTING THE AURARIA CAMPUS STRATEGIC PLAN

The Auraria Campus is committed to providing an effective, efficient, and supportive environment that serves the students of the Community College of Denver, Metropolitan State University of Denver, and University of Colorado Denver. Each part of the Auraria ecosystem supports and reinforces the others. The 2021 Strategic Plan established the foundation of the ecosystem.

Our collective identity serves as the connective tissue. Successfully executing the strategic plan ultimately creates an Auraria Campus that is an integral part of downtown Denver and serves as a welcoming oasis for students seeking public higher education and community members seeking a diverse neighborhood to live, work, play, and learn.

The team continues to operationalize the 2021 Strategic Plan, advancing the work laid out in the foundation years. All strategies and goals have been developed as modalities of forward movement to the organization's overarching mission and vision.

The following pillars of the strategic plan aim to highlight all Auraria strategies and provide a status update on the current state of each goal.



EXEMPLARY SERVICE

01

As stewards of the Auraria Campus, it is our top priority to provide excellent customer service to our students, faculty, and staff. To be most effective in this endeavor, Auraria Campus is committed to ensuring our campus is a place where differences are welcomed, and every individual feels a sense of belonging and inclusion. Our collective identity will be woven into all facets of our mission and values as we work to live out our strategic vision for the future success of the Auraria Campus.



Improvement with Purpose

Structure for Success

The Human Resources department began implementing a new human resources information system through UKG, streamlining benefits and payroll processes, reducing administrative burden, and creating more capacity for HR to focus on employee relations.

Auraria Campus and the four partner institutions underwent a comprehensive study from KPMG, a nationally recognized professional services firm. The results of this comprehensive study will be used to inform the operation of our shared campus. The goal is to identify ways to improve governance, operations, financial sustainability, and collaboration across the Auraria Campus community.

This study is part of a broader commitment to keeping the campus efficient, transparent, and responsive to community needs. KPMG delivered its final report in January 2026, providing recommendations that support state oversight requirements and the long-term success of the Auraria Campus.

Auraria Sustainable Campus Program

The Auraria Sustainable Campus Program hosted its 11th Annual Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, bringing together students, employees, community partners, and campus departments to raise awareness and provide resources. The week included 347 attendees, 10 presentations and workshops, and 38 community partners and 15 campus departments.

The effort also provided tangible support to the campus community, including more than 200 hot meals, 200 jackets, nine free haircuts, and 3,500 pounds of donated food.

Information Technology

Information Technology continued to improve the speed and efficiency of campus support. Over the course of the year, IT handled nearly 11,000 support tickets, while the median resolution time improved from 21.4 hours in the first half of the year to 13.4 hours by the fourth quarter, well below the industry-recommended 24-hour benchmark.

IT also managed more than 3,000 technology assets and rolled out multi-factor authentication across the organization, strengthening both service and security.

ID Station

ID Station produced more than 15,000 badges for students, faculty, staff, and campus partners during the fiscal year, supporting access and identification needs across the shared campus.

The King Center

The King Center continued to support the academic and cultural life of the campus, hosting 194 academic events from the three partner institutions. In addition, its performance venues recorded more than 3,000 bookings for classes, rehearsals, performances, and recording sessions.



King Center Auditorium | Outside Days

Improvement with Purpose

As stewards of the Auraria Campus, providing a safe, responsive, and welcoming environment is at the heart of exemplary service. In 2025-26, departments across campus focused on improving response times, expanding access, strengthening community connections, and making everyday campus experiences more efficient.

Facilities Maintenance

Facilities Maintenance completed more than 5,700 corrective work orders during the year while enhancing its work order database to provide better visibility into service metrics. Improvements in response and completion times for emergency and urgent work orders reflected the team's continued focus on timely service.

The Custodial team also implemented a new software program for weekly inspections, providing a more consistent way to monitor service quality across nearly two million square feet of campus space. Early inspection results showed the team consistently meeting or exceeding expectations.

Auraria Campus Police Department

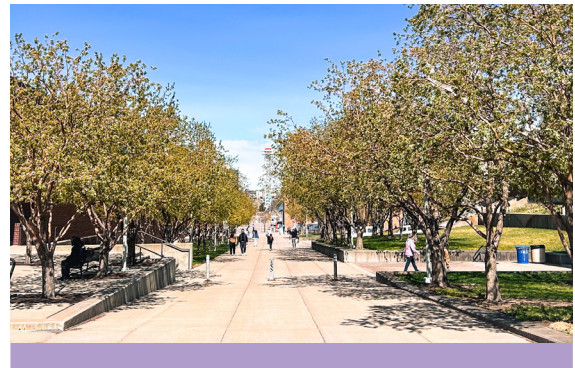
Safety remained a top priority throughout the year. The Auraria Campus Police Department (ACPD) responded to 5,372 calls for service, made 604 arrests, and conducted 9,512 foot patrols across campus. NIBRS data showed a nearly 40% decrease in reported crime on campus compared with the previous fiscal year. ACPD's average response time to emergency calls was 2.9 minutes.

ACPD also expanded its engagement with the campus community, hosting six community events and 16 training sessions. In addition, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission approved ACPD's application to become a 911 Primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), an important step in strengthening emergency response capabilities on campus.

Parking and Transportation

Parking and Transportation expanded access to its accessible shuttle, making the service available to anyone in the campus community. The shuttle provided 2,006 rides during the year, while the department responded to 5,845 calls from the campus community.

The department also hosted two Pizza with Parking town halls, creating an opportunity for the community to ask questions, learn about parking policies, and provide feedback on the customer experience.



Street view of the Auraria Campus grounds



ACTIVATED PARTNERSHIPS



A founding tenant of Auraria Campus is to facilitate cooperation among our partners. Returning to the spirit of a shared campus benefits a greater proportion of campus community members, and strengthens communication between the partner institutions. This is a collective goal all partners will participate in and ensures we preserve and honor our campus' rich history and the principles of our statutory founding.



02

Tivoli Reimagined Engagement

Fall 2025 marked the official launch of Tivoli Reimagined, a transformational initiative focused on revitalizing the Tivoli Student Union and enhancing the student experience on the Auraria Campus. As one of the city and campus' most iconic landmarks, the Tivoli has served many purposes throughout its history, from a brewery to a shopping mall, before becoming the student union after a successful student-led effort in the 1990s. Despite its central role in campus life, the building has not undergone a significant renovation since that time.

Tivoli Reimagined represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to modernize the facility while honoring its rich history. The project seeks to enhance the campus' shared living room by creating an engaging, welcoming, and student-centered environment that reflects the evolving needs of today's learners and supports the future of campus life.

Community engagement has been at the heart of the planning process. During the project's initial phase, Auraria Campus collected extensive feedback from students, faculty, staff, and campus partners through a survey designed to better understand how the Tivoli is currently used and what improvements are most desired.

This input helped establish a clear vision for the building's future and ensured that the project was grounded in the needs of the campus community.

To translate that vision into a conceptual plan, Auraria Campus partnered with ZGF Architects, who developed innovative design concepts informed by community feedback. Throughout the Spring 2026 semester, the campus hosted a series of town halls and engagement sessions to present ideas, gather additional input, and test proposed concepts. The response was overwhelmingly positive; In total, more than 1,500 students, faculty, and staff participated in outreach and engagement efforts. Their feedback culminated in the development of a comprehensive program plan, which was approved by ABOD. The approval marked a significant milestone for the project and supported the submission of a state funding request to advance the next phase of planning and design.

Looking ahead, the Tivoli Reimagined Committee will continue its work by reconvening in Fall 2026 to gather additional student and stakeholder feedback. This ongoing engagement will help shape future design decisions and ensure that the project remains aligned with campus priorities. Through a collaborative, community-driven process, Tivoli Reimagined is laying the foundation for a modern student union that celebrates the building's legacy while creating a dynamic destination for generations of Auraria students to come.



Tivoli Reimagined town hall meeting



Architectural rendering of the Peace & Healing Garden project

Sustain the Voice and Legacy of Auraria

Honor, celebrate and seek reconciliation with historical campus communities: The Peace & Healing Garden project, honoring Displaced Aurarians, was officially started with a blessing of the space before construction began in April. Through ongoing collaboration between the Auraria Historical Advocacy Council, Displaced Aurarians & their descendants, and staff from Auraria Campus, CCD, MSU Denver, & CU Denver, an approximately 7,000 square foot Peace and Healing Garden will be constructed on 9th Street Park.

Promote Status as Hispanic Serving Institutions

The Auraria Campus continued to honor its strong connection to the Hispanic community by hosting numerous events on campus. One was a Dia de los Muertos installation, hosted in the Tivoli Atrium. Then there was Somos Agua, an event co-hosted in collaboration with Sisters of Color United for Education and community partners across Colorado, which celebrated the book SOMOS AGUA by Manuko G. Garcia. This event featured a short walk-through of the book and the Somos Agua mural series with the author, followed by a book signing. The program also included special performances by Colorado Crew (Native Drummers) and Kalpulli ColorAztlan Quetzalcoatl Dancers, whose art and movement honor our shared connections to water, culture, and community. The Somos Agua tapestries were displayed in the Tivoli Atrium for weeks after the event.

Outreach & Communication

Website Accessibility Study

A comprehensive website accessibility study was performed and completed during FY 2025-26. Partnering with web accessibility company Allyant, the Auraria Campus website was reviewed for any compliance violations within the guidelines set through the Americans with Disabilities Act. After an extensive review and editing process, the website received a Letter of Conformance from Allyant stating that the site did not encounter any accessibility blockers that would deny a user using assistive technology from accessing the main content and functionality. This means that the website substantially conforms with Level A and Level AA of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2.2. In addition, AHEC retained Allyant to provide ongoing accessibility live-user reviews. With this in place, Allyant will perform ongoing accessibility testing and support of selected elements of the website, including live-user testing on a regular basis to ensure the most up-to-date accessibility standards continue to be met.

Collaboration With Off-Campus Organizations

The Auraria Campus came together to partner with the Colorado Department of Revenue to renovate and lease the empty office space in the 5th Street Garage. Starting in December, the space is now home to a Regional Service Center. The center houses:

- DMV - Drivers License services
- Taxpayer services
- Lottery Claims office
- Cashier and Tax remittance office



VIBRANT ENVIRONMENTS

03



The Auraria Campus should be a place where students, faculty, staff, and downtown Denver community members gather, cultivate relationships, and get inspired. We are focused on creating an environment to draw our community in by modernizing our academic facilities, establishing connections to downtown, and enhancing the vibrancy of our common areas.

Modernize Facilities

Building Auraria: Progress in Motion

The \$420M Building Auraria construction program continues to make significant progress across campus, with several major projects now completed and others actively underway.

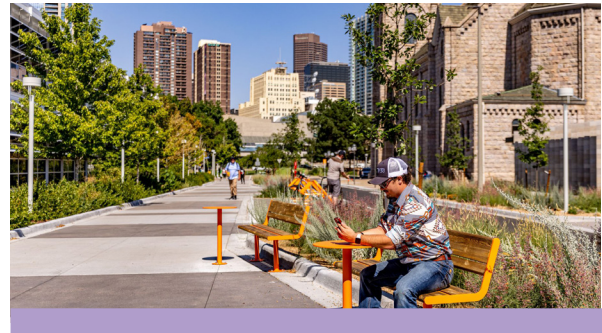
Curtis & Champa Streets Walkway Improvements

The Curtis & Champa corridors were reconstructed to improve accessibility, safety, and the overall campus experience. The project upgraded walkways and emergency drive lanes to meet current ADA standards, while enhanced landscaping and new seating areas created a more welcoming and vibrant outdoor environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

Energy Performance Contract

Auraria's \$29M Energy Performance Contract (EPC) is projected to reduce annual campus energy costs by approximately \$473,000 while lowering greenhouse gas emissions by 2,400 metric tons each year, the equivalent of removing approximately 520 gas-powered vehicles from the road annually.

During FY 2025-26, several EPC projects were completed. Across campus, 35,000 lighting fixtures were upgraded to energy-efficient LED technology. More than a mile of new energy-efficient windows was installed in the campus's original buildings to improve building performance and reduce energy consumption. In March 2026, a 560-panel solar array was completed and connected on the roof of the Science Building, expanding the campus' renewable energy capacity. Additional infrastructure upgrades included the replacement of aging chillers in the Administration and Rectory buildings with more efficient equipment, as well as connecting the Auraria Events Center to the campus chiller plant to provide more effective and efficient cooling.



Street view of the newly improved Curtis Street walkway

Capital Renewal Projects

Two major state-funded Capital Renewal projects reached substantial completion during FY 2025-26. Project B/B2, a \$53M initiative, replaced the original HVAC systems in five of the campus's largest classroom buildings and upgraded the North Chiller Plant, significantly improving reliability and energy efficiency. Project C focused on enhancing building envelopes across campus, including full or partial roof replacements on nine buildings, exterior brick maintenance, and contributions toward the EPC window replacement project.

Campus Safety Center

Auraria received the second phase of state funding, totaling \$16M, allowing construction to begin on the Campus Safety Center. The architect also completed the building's full design following extensive engagement and input from the campus community.

The new Campus Safety Center, a 32,000-square-foot facility that will house classrooms, meeting spaces, the Auraria Campus Police Department, and a 24-hour student lounge--a first of its kind space on campus. The project reached a major milestone with an official groundbreaking ceremony in September 2025. Construction began in March and is scheduled for completion in summer 2027, marking an important investment in campus safety, student services, and community spaces.

Auraria Early Learning Center

The Auraria Early Learning Center, which is part of the greater ELC & Workforce Housing project, had an official groundbreaking ceremony in June.

The groundbreaking ceremony unveiled the facility's new name, the Merage Early Learning Center, in recognition of the David and Laura Merage Foundation's support and commitment to expanding opportunities for children and families.

The new 25,000-square-foot center will expand childcare capacity by approximately 30%, helping address current waitlist while creating additional opportunities for parenting students, faculty, staff, and community members to access high-quality early childhood education.

AHEC Project Managers also provided oversight and support for several major construction projects led by the campus institutions. Projects included the MSU Denver Summit House, the MSU Denver Health Institute, and the Community College of Denver's Boulder Creek renovation, helping ensure successful planning, coordination, and project execution across the Auraria Campus.

Enhance Outdoor Spaces

As part of an ever-growing array of public art displays on the Auraria Campus, the 7th Street Garage got a fresh look with the Vibrant Entrances project. As part of this initiative, acclaimed Colorado artists



Vibrant Entrances: A closer look at the 7th Street Garage mural

Julio "Juls" Mendoza and Jaime Molina collaborated on a dynamic new public art installation that celebrates creativity, culture, and community. Together, their distinctive artistic voices will transform the entrances to the 7th Street Garage into vibrant, welcoming destinations that reflect the diverse stories, histories, and creative spirit of the Auraria Campus.

St. Cajetan's Turns 100

In March 2026, we celebrated 100 years of St. Cajetan's Church, one of Auraria Campus' most meaningful historic landmarks and a cornerstone of Denver's Hispanic community. Opened in March 1926, St. Cajetan's Catholic Church quickly became the spiritual, cultural, and social heart of Auraria's Spanish-speaking community.

As Denver's first Hispanic Catholic parish, St. Cajetan's holds a powerful place in the history of West Denver and the Auraria Campus.

To honor this milestone, the building was restored in January 2025 to its original blue and yellow paint colors, preserving its distinctive Spanish Colonial architecture and celebrating its legacy for future generations.

Today, St. Cajetan's continues to bring people together as a multi-purpose space for lectures, concerts, recitals, and community events, carrying forward its long-standing tradition as a place of connection and community.



Amor De La Mexicana festival in front of the restored St. Cajetan's church



Outside Days | May 2026

Activate the Campus

The 2025-26 fiscal year was a milestone year for large-scale event hosting on Auraria Campus. Altogether, the campus coordinated 3,354 events—970 external events and 2,384 internal events—reflecting its role as a dynamic gathering place for the higher education community and the broader Denver community. Among the year's highlights were two marquee events synonymous with downtown Denver: the Christkindlmarket in November and December and Outside Days in May.

Denver Christkindlmarket

The Christkindlmarket celebrated its 25th anniversary, welcoming more than 40 vendors and 350,000 annual visitors to the Tivoli Quad throughout the holiday season. The anniversary also brought new activations, including a carousel and glass ornament workshops. With twinkling lights and festive cheer, the Market was a success for vendors and visitors alike, while campus residents frequently stopped by for a pretzel or to enjoy the festivities between classes.

Mile High Tree

During the holiday season, Visit Denver and Xcel Energy also brought the Mile High Tree to the Tivoli Quad. At 110 feet tall, the conical structure was 10 feet taller than the tallest Rockefeller Center Christmas tree in history. With 60,000 LED lights and space for up to 140 guests beneath the tree, the installation created an immersive experience that drew visitors to campus throughout the season.

Outside Days Festival

In May, Auraria Campus hosted its largest event yet with the third annual Outside Days Festival. For three days, multiple buildings, open spaces, and parking lots were transformed into festival grounds featuring concerts, vendors, demonstrations, workshops, films, notable speakers, and a wide range of outdoor experiences.

Returning Events

Beyond these marquee events, Auraria Campus continued to attract a strong mix of returning events and new opportunities throughout the year. Longstanding events such as Brunch Fest, the Denver Food and Wine Festival, VegFest, and St. Jude 5k Run/Walk returned to campus. At the same time, the Department of Special Events expanded its reach by bringing new events to campus, including the Mile Long Table community gathering and AEG Presents Zeds Dead Backyard Jamboree, which welcomed nearly 10,000 attendees. The department also continued to support events hosted by the three institutions and student-led events throughout the year. Together, these efforts help create the kind of active, vibrant campus experience that students increasingly value, while continuing to make Auraria an attractive destination for returning partners and new event organizers.



SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

04



Auraria Campus is exploring alternative funding strategies, focusing on economic development, and maximizing existing assets so that all the other strategic goals can be accomplished.

Identify Alternative Funding Strategies

This past spring, the Auraria Sustainable Campus Program (ASCP) put in the work, literally sorting through waste!

Thanks to a \$50,000 grant from C3 (Circular Colorado Communities Enterprise), they launched a comprehensive waste characterization study across campus in partnership with Diversion Designers. During the spring semester, their team collected and sorted 8,000 lbs of waste and recycling samples into 57 distinct material categories!

The findings from this study will help:

- Identify cost savings in waste hauling
- Uncover opportunities for new recycling programs
- Strengthen outreach and education around waste diversion

The Auraria Campus also secured major philanthropic donations to the new Auraria Early Learning Center with \$3.7M in philanthropic gifts raised, marking 66% of funding for the project secured. On top of that, over \$150 million has been raised in Capital Construction/Capital Renewal funds from the State of Colorado for major infrastructure and building projects.

Drive Auxiliary Revenues

The Auraria Campus has seen a significant increase in year-over-year night and weekend parking revenue, aided by enhanced marketing and outreach and the new \$25-\$30 event and weekend parking rates for those attending events and activities outside the campus boundaries.

AHEC continues to diversify revenue streams, including ground leases, on the two new towers, the Department of Revenue partnership, billboards located on campus, and continued nights and weekend parking growth.



Newly installed solar panels on the roof of the Science building



Food trucks on the Auraria Campus grounds

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