

# **Creating Communities: Digitizing Denver's Historic Neighborhoods Project at the Denver Public Library Western History Genealogy Department**

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**Abstract:** Through *Creating Communities*, the Denver Public Library and its partners have designed a three-year, six-phase pilot project. Information on Denver neighborhoods from official records of the City and County of Denver and a wide variety of partner institutions will be digitized and brought together in a centralized digital repository. This project will bring together items in virtual space, which are physically located in institutions spread across the Front Range of Colorado. Creating the unique partnership of the public library, municipal government, educational institutions and the Colorado Historical Society, this project will demonstrate how these groups can create a rich historical information database, easily accessible to the community without regard to the physical location of either the data or the user.

The project, funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is designed to accomplish four main goals:

- To create a Denver Public Library/City and County of Denver partnership as a model for how a public library can work with its local government to digitize and make historical and current documents of the government accessible to City personnel and the general public.
- To create partnerships with a variety of educational and community organizations as a model for bringing heterogeneous information about neighborhoods together in one easily accessible digital archive.
- To create a model that allows for the end user to access digital information from diverse sources.
- To create a records management model that allows for future integration of digitized and “born digital” records including print, audio and visual files.

## Neighborhoods:

Park Hill

Five Points/Whittier

Auraria/Lincoln Park

Capitol Hill

University Park,

Barnum

West Colfax

## Creating Communities Partners

Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library

City and County of Denver

Colorado Historical Society

Denver Public Library  
University of Colorado at Denver Auraria Library  
University of Denver Penrose Library

**About the author:**

*James W. Rogers*, Digitization Technician at the Denver Public Library. Under the direction of the Program Administrator I assist with the Institute of Museum and Library Services grant project “Creating Communities: Digitizing Denver’s Historic Neighborhoods.” I prepare archival materials for scanning, as well as edit OCR documents, apply metadata and assist with workflow and assignment of duties including supervision and operation of the DPL scanning lab. As a recent graduate of the University of Denver MLIS program I have a strong interest in digital preservation as well as using Web 2.0 tools, such as the new DPL Flickr photostream, to increase outreach and user participation in archives and libraries.