DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mapping It Out:

A case study in using maps to inform library offerings

About the Mapper

Aileen Ayala

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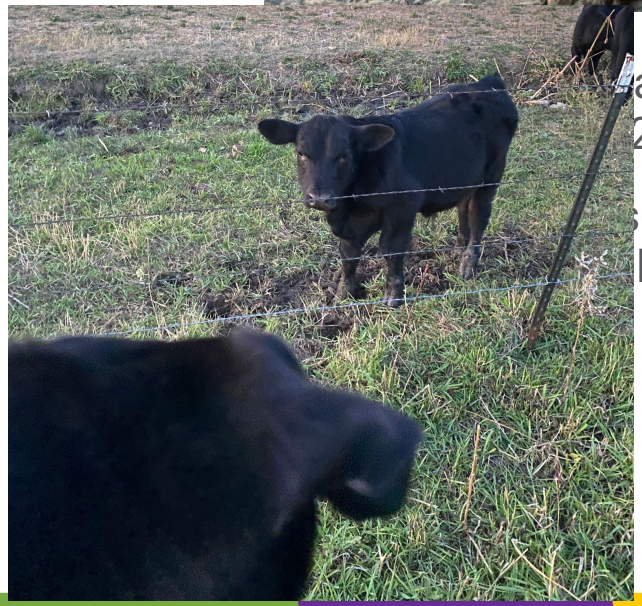

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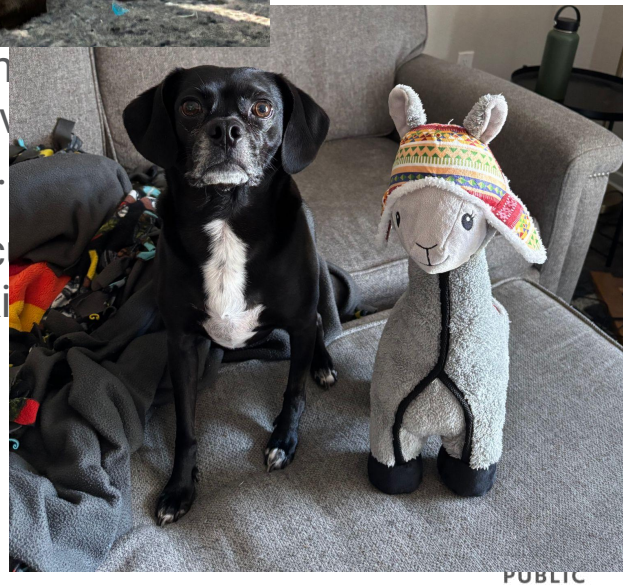

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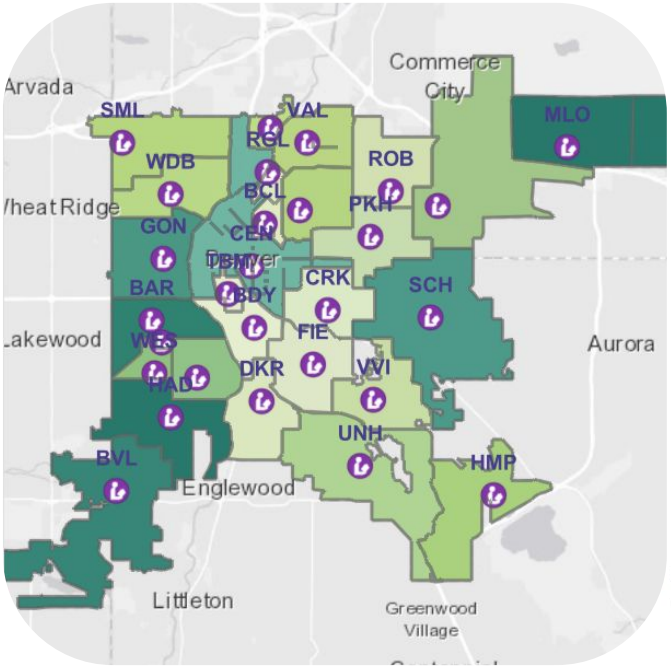
Denver Youth and Libraries Project

Each year, the Denver Public Library engages in a Service Planning process to identify which programs or targeted services should be offered at which frequency at all 27 locations.

There were a few key questions to solve for:

- How can we compile the breadth of available data on Denver youth and the Denver Public library in one space?
- What does a shared understanding of how decisions are made look like?
- How can we reliably maintain this data and ensure it's available when we need it?



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Evolution of the Project

- Expanding into a GIS Dashboard to include even more data points across age ranges and demographics categories and **allow for all departments to have access to the same information for decision making**.
- Utilizing open and publicly available data sources allows us to report both our usage metrics and decision making to other City agencies in **one easy to navigate tool.**
- These tools have been shared with and modified in collaboration with Denver Public Schools and the Office of Children's Affairs to **ensure alignment in the decision making information we have across the City**.
- These tools are **a continual work-in-progress** to ensure they maintain utility and relevance to our internal and external partners.

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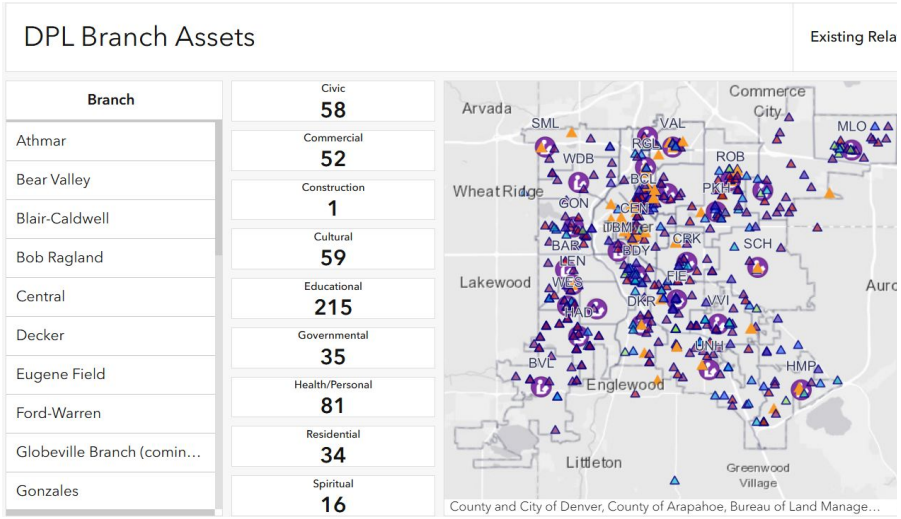
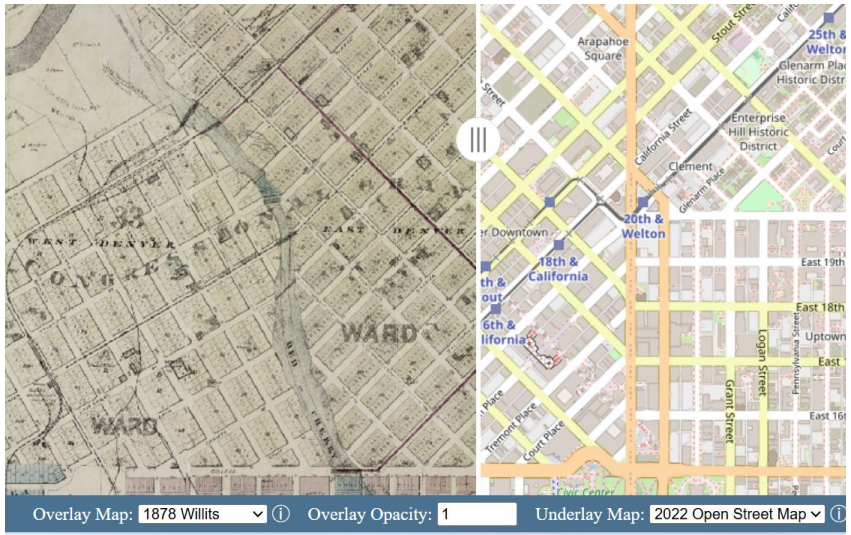
Other Library Mapping Projects

Mapping Community Assets



Time Traveler's Map of Denver



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The Library and You

Public libraries have so much to offer beyond just books!

Free access to many, many, many databases

- Tutor.com: Offers free homework assistance for students.
- Data Axle: Provides comprehensive business and residential directories.
- SimplyAnalytics: Allows for mapping, analytics, and data visualization, featuring over 100,000 data variables.

Library of Things

- Access to diverse resources such as sewing machines, WiFi hotspots, and Power Check Meters, and Cultural Passes that allow for free visits to local museums, zoos, and Colorado State Parks.

Makerspaces

- Opportunities to learn new crafts, repair various items, and access software for photo, video, and audio editing.

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