A City Emerges:

AURORA’S First FIFTY YEARS

The Aurora History Museum is bringing back a fan-favorite exhibition. During Civics Week in June, the Aurora History Museum held an online and in-person vote to choose among three past exhibitions to return, and the people have spoken. “A City Emerges: Aurora’s First Fifty Years” highlights how Aurora went from a humble satellite town of 100 residents to a large, developing and diverse community. The exhibit features the origins of the city’s public services, like the Police and Fire Departments and some of its historic sites.

The exhibit is on display in the museum’s education room for the next year. Museum staff updated the look and feel of the exhibit, but the rich history remains the same. “It is great to have the community have a say during Civics Week in what exhibits we put on display,” said T. Scott Williams, Aurora History Museum Director. “A City Emerges: Aurora’s First Fifty Years is a fantastic exhibit with a lot of great historic people, articles and photos featured. The original exhibit first premiered 11 years ago; I hope visitors learn a lot about Aurora’s first 50 years.”

Come and revisit the stories that helped make Aurora what it is today. Admission to the Aurora History Museum is always free. To stay up to date on related programming, call 303.739.6660 or visit AuroraMuseum.org.

About the Aurora History Museum

The Aurora History Museum opened in 1979. In 1990, it moved to its present location, reopened in 1991 and became a part of the city of Aurora Cultural Services Division, the largest single provider of arts and culture programs in Aurora. The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free. For more information, visit AuroraMuseum.org.
Visitors to the new Southeast Recreation Center will discover that they are not just entering a building but walking into a work of art. “Florescence” covers the interior walls of the central ‘canyon’ of the building, breathing color and life into this interior landscape as it appears to grow and thrive.

Adam Buente, the owner of Project One Studio, the artist selected for this public art, describes the process of bringing together community thoughts about Aurora with the conceptual and physical reality of the architecture by Gudmundur Jonsson of Populous to create this work of public art.

According to the artist, two main ideas—blended and integrated into the building’s architecture are driving the artwork, the Growth and Change of the Life Cycle, which illustrates how “Aurora’s landscape is growing and changing, from the built environment to the flora that grows throughout its rolling hills,” Buente said. “Our intention is to mimic patterns found in both human activity and the natural world to develop our own artistic ecosystem.”

The other idea, Nature and Community, depicts how “as a city, Aurora is geographically expansive, while its community is diverse and connected,” he said. “We intend to represent diversity through multiple color transitions. These colors work cohesively as a composition and allow for individuality in each tone. The openness of the community can be compared to a vast prairie landscape. Its ecosystem, like its community, is interconnected.”

Growing from floor to ceiling, there is a sense that a large gust of wind has blown through the space as the elements appear to float from one side to the other, creating a colorful tunnel to engage runners on the elevated indoor track.

The artwork’s title is “Florescence,” which means “a state or period of flourishing,” captures what this building and programming are intended to inspire.

“We work at the limitless intersections of public art and architecture. It is important to us that each project tells a story about the place it’s located and the lives of the people who will experience it the most,” added Buente. Just like people and the places they live, work and play, our projects are multi-faceted and layered.”

“Florescence” is now part of the city of Aurora’s Art in Public Places collection. To learn more about the Art in Public Places program, visit AuroraGov.org/PublicArt.

Southeast Recreation Center officially opens its doors to the public Tuesday, Jan. 17. The center’s formal grand opening is scheduled from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, followed by a public celebration from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
JANUARY

20
Acts of Faith Opening Night 🎟️
Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Aurora Fox Arts Center

29
All Ages Jazz Jam
Sunday, 1 to 3 p.m.
The People’s Building

FEBRUARY

10
The Year of Magical Thinking Opening Night
Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Aurora Fox Arts Center
Tickets: AuroraFoxArtsCenter.org

12
2023 Free Young People’s Concert
Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Aurora North Middle School, 12095 E Montview Blvd.
AuroraSymphony.org

26
All Ages Jazz Jam
Sunday, 1 to 3 p.m.
The People’s Building

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Aurora History Museum
Morning at the Museum (Ages 3 to 6)
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.
Aurora History Museum, children must be supervised by an adult.
AuroraMuseum.org

Homeschool Days at Aurora History Museum
(Elementary and Middle students)
$7 per student - adult must be present for program.
Monday, Jan. 9: Explore how toys and games have changed over time.
February: Learn how archeologists use historical texts and materials to understand the past.
Information and dates: AuroraMuseum.org

Theatre & Performing Arts

Acts of Faith 🎟️
Jan. 20 to Feb. 5 | Aurora Fox Arts Theater
Tickets: AuroraFoxArtsCenter.org

The Year of Magical Thinking 🎟️
Feb. 10 to 26 | Aurora Fox Arts Center
Tickets: AuroraFoxArtsCenter.org

The Roommate
Jan. 13 to Feb. 19
Vintage Theater, 1468 Dayton St.
Tickets: VintageTheater.org

Sophisticated Ladies
Jan. 27 to March 5
Vintage Theater, 1468 Dayton St.
Tickets: VintageTheater.org

Theatre Classes

Storybook, Alive! Toy Land
Creative Dramatics (Ages 4 to 7) 🎟️
Jan. 23 to Feb. 13, Monday, 4:30 to 5:45 p.m.
Code 57810 | Tallyn’s Reach Library

Storybook, Alive! Winter Wonderland
Creative Dramatics (Ages 4 to 7) 🎟️
Tuesday, 4:30 to 5:45 p.m.
Code 57812 Jan 10 to 31
Code 57813 Feb. 7 to 28
Mission Viejo Library

Fantastic Beasts Theater (Ages 8 to 12) 🎟️
Jan. 21 to Feb. 25, Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Code: 57816 | Tallyn’s Reach Library

Wide World of Entertainment Wrestling/Stage Combat (Ages 10 and up) 🎟️
Jan. 21 to Feb. 25, Saturday, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Code: 57819 | Aurora Central Library Cultural Services Studio

Art Exhibits

Graphite exhibition by Janette Hester
MLK Jr. Library | Through Jan. 31

Painting exhibition by Monica Gatica
Tallyn’s Reach Library | Through Jan. 31

Quilt exhibition by Quilting Bee’s
MLK Jr. and Tallyn’s Reach Libraries
Feb. 1 to March 31

Photography Class

Photography – The Basics (Ages 18 and up) 🎟️
Jan. 13 to Feb. 3, Friday, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Code 58728 | Bicentennial Art Center

Register at CityOfAurora.PerfectMind.com
AURORA DANCE ARTS
WINTER RECREATIONAL DANCE CLASSES
FOR YOUTH & ADULTS

Register for all the winter recreational dance classes by visiting CityOfAurora.PerfectMind.com or calling the Dance Office. Aurora Dance Arts will also be offering a select number of classes as part of the five-month Continuous Children's Dance Program, which includes participation in the spring dance recitals in June. For information about that program and to register, call the Dance Office directly at 303.326.8308.

Adult Dance (Ages 18 and up)
Adult Contemporary $
Movement qualities of ballet, jazz and modern dance along with expression through grounded, free-flowing and lyrical movement.
Jan. 10 to Feb. 28, Tuesday, 7:15 to 8:45 p.m.
Code 61535 | Meadowood Recreation Center

Adult Intermediate/Advanced Tap $
Focus on challenging tap steps and complex rhythms/musicality.
Jan. 10 to Feb. 28, Tuesday, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Code 61540 | Meadowood Recreation Center

Adult Beg Tap $
Introduction to beginning tap steps and rhythms including center work, across the floor and dance combos.
Jan. 5 to Feb. 23, Thursday, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Code 61545 | Meadowood Recreation Center

Adult Jazz $
Focus on isolations, grounded technique, stretching/conditioning, jumping/turning across the floor and dance combinations.
Jan. 5 to Feb. 23, Thursday, 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Code 61554 | Central Recreation Center

Adult Ballet $
Technique and terminology for beginning to intermediate levels. Barre work and combinations in the center and across the floor.
Jan. 7 to Feb. 25, Saturday 8:30 to 10 a.m.
Code 61564 | Meadowood Recreation Center

Youth Dance
Beg Ballet (Ages 7 to 12) $
An introduction to ballet technique and terminology, including barre work, center and across the floor.
Jan. 9 to Mar. 6, Monday, 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. (No class Jan. 16 and Feb. 20)
Code 61498 | Central Recreation Center

Creative Dance and Stories (Ages 3 to 4) $
Creative dance and stories for play and movement
Jan. 10 to Feb. 28, Tuesday, 3:40 to 4:25 p.m.
Code 61499 | Meadowood Recreation Center

Tippy Toes (Age 3) $
Introduction to ballet, creative movement and play specifically for 3-year-old learning.
Jan. 7 to Feb. 25, Sat., 9 to 9:45 a.m.
Code 61500 | Meadowood Recreation Center

Pre-Ballet (Ages 4 to 6) $
Introduction to ballet technique and terminology and creative ways of moving.
Jan. 6 to Feb. 24, Friday, 4:30 to 5:15 p.m.
Code 61501 | Central Recreation Center
Jan. 7 to Feb. 25, Sat., 10 to 10:45 a.m.
Code 61502 | Meadowood Recreation Center

Pre Hip-Hop (Ages 4 to 6) $
Introduction to hip-hop skills and choreography.
Jan. 8 to Feb. 26, Sun., 9 to 9:45 a.m.
Code 61503 | Central Recreation Center

Beg Hip-Hop (Ages 7 to 12) $
Beginner learning of popping/locking, tutting, breaking and choreography.
Jan. 8 to Feb. 26, Sunday, 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.
Code 61504 | Central Recreation Center
FITZSIMONS TO ANSCHUTZ: 
THE HISTORY OF ARMY GENERAL HOSPITAL NO. 21

A new exhibit on display through March 12, at the Aurora History Museum, explores the development of the Fitzsimons medical complex and its impact on our community over the last 104 years. From its early days during World War I to the more recent developments as a state-of-the-art medical campus. Visitors learn the history of the world-renowned respiratory treatment facilities and discover the story of its most famous patient, President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Army General Hospital No. 21 opened near the small town of Aurora in 1918. Two years later, it was renamed Fitzsimons General Hospital in honor of Lt. William T. Fitzsimons, the first U.S. medical officer killed in World War I. After numerous closure attempts in the 1930s, the government classified Fitzsimons as a permanent installation and appropriated funds for expansion. This included constructing a new main building to centralize patients and provide staff with up-to-date facilities. Building 500 was dedicated Dec. 3, 1941, just days before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Although it treated patients throughout both world wars, Korea and Vietnam, Fitzsimons may be best known for the seven-week treatment of Eisenhower after a heart attack in 1955. The Army deactivated Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in 1999. Today, the Anschutz Medical Campus is on the former Fitzsimons site and maintains a worldwide reputation for cutting-edge medical technology and research.

Many Aurorans have fond memories of Fitzsimons. Several were born at the hospital, and even more served on the base. Large neighborhoods sprung up all around the Army base. Fitzsimons shaped modern Aurora. Today, the Anschutz Medical Campus employs over 15,000 people from the surrounding areas and is a major economic asset in Aurora’s economy. The new exhibition chronicles the people, places, and structures of the historic Fitzsimons medical complex. To share your own Fitzsimons story or learn more about this and other unique exhibits visit, AuroraMuseum.org.
AURORA FOX PRESENTS

ACTS OF FAITH

The Aurora Fox Arts Center presents a U.S. theatrical premiere that takes the audience through a story of the eternal struggle between good and evil, the disillusionment of youth and the power of belief. From the African Copperbelt to the backwoods of Muskoka, “Acts of Faith” follows a young woman named Faith who gets mistaken for a prophet. When a revered religious leader attempts to take advantage of her plight, she begins using her “gift” to right wrongs and punish the wicked. Far from home, Faith will come up against the ultimate test of her convictions in a final confrontation between sin and sainthood, morality and godliness. Enjoy this unique theatrical experience from Jan. 20 to Feb. 5. For more information on this and more shows, visit AuroraFoxArtsCenter.org.

THE YEAR OF MAGICAL THINKING

In this spellbinding adaptation of her award-winning bestselling memoir by the same name, Joan Didion transforms the sudden and unexpected loss of her husband and their only daughter into a powerful journey down the pathway to healing. The New York Times called Didion’s story “… an indelible portrait of loss and grief … a haunting portrait of a four-decade-long marriage.” See Didion’s story come to life right before your eyes in this stunning one-woman play at the Aurora Fox Arts Center from Feb. 9 to 26. Find information on show times and tickets at AuroraFoxArtsCenter.org.
Aurora Public Library is starting 2023 with a bang, with several enhancements to community services.

Beginning Jan. 1, the library no longer charges late fees on overdue items and has expanded operating hours at Aurora Central and Tallyn’s Reach libraries. Also in January, Aurora Public Library is hosting the grand opening of the Chambers Plaza Library, 1551 N. Chambers Road, bringing the city’s library locations back to seven since closures in 2009. The grand opening will take place at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, followed by two community celebrations from noon to 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13 and Saturday, Jan. 14.

In February, Aurora Public Library is officially introducing a brand-new Bookmobile, acquired through an individual donation before the pandemic and completed in late 2022 to bring mobile library services to patrons. To top it all off, the library is offering a limited-edition library card to celebrate a year of reimagining of the possibilities.

“This is just the beginning of what we expect to be the best year for Aurora Public Library patrons and the community as a whole,” said Library and Cultural Services Director Midori Clark. “We are reimagining what’s possible at the libraries and invite our community members to do the same. With dynamic programs and offerings, modern libraries are much more than books. If you can imagine it, it can happen at the library.”

With more than one million items checked out a year and more than 270,000 library cardholders, the seven Aurora Public Library branches keep busy. The library is also known for innovative programs such as Aurora Brew Tour, Aurora Scholars, STEAM and early literacy programs for children, sewing classes for adults, teen clubs, and more. The addition of the Bookmobile will expand library services to remote or secluded areas. For details about Aurora Public Library’s 2023 Reimagine initiatives, visit AuroraLibrary.org.