

# COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

2023



## Citizenship-in-Action

We dedicated our new Literary Garden in June, merging the inspiration of gardens with the magic of literature.

DURANGO  
BOTANIC  
GARDENS





Literary Garden ribbon cutting with, naturally, hedge clippers.



“We appreciate all that went into this little piece of paradise. The umpteen volunteer hours, the donations. The vision. The Literary Garden, a new favorite, offers pure delight.”

*The Durango Herald*

## 2023 Initiatives

### A GROWING YOUTH PROGRAM

In 2023 we took several major steps forward in creating a robust youth activities program. Hundreds of children from both public and private schools visited with us to learn how to plant and maintain gardens. Sessions in the gardens are typically accompanied by readings, led by our youth leaders, to encourage reading and listening skills while learning about our amazing botanical world. Our efforts were recognized recently with a \$3,000 grant from the Colorado Garden Foundation.



### DURANGOSCAPE CONFERENCE

Our DurangoScape Conference was attended both online and in person by nearly 200 people as we continue to lead the way toward adapting our landscapes and gardens to changing climate conditions.



### POLLINATOR GARDEN

We have transformed a weedy patch along the Animas River Trail into a new Pollinator Habitat, demonstrating and educating the Trail’s users of the importance of pollinators to the overall health of our landscapes and planet. The Pollinator Garden was designed and installed by Blooming Landscape & Design.



### ART IN THE GARDENS

We added several major pieces of art in the Gardens, including Ross Barrable’s *Infiniti Wind Harp* and David Mallin’s *Earth Mother*, both supported by the city’s Lodger’s Tax. We believe the Gardens are now the largest concentration of outdoor art in the city.



Photo courtesy of Bob Spencer Photography



We added over 400 perennials, annuals, and bulbs this year and won numerous awards at the county fair.



### VOLUNTEER HOURS

# 1654

Volunteers are the heart of our organization.

## 2023 By-the-Numbers

### Docents

# 35

Docents add context and fascinating detail for our group tours. Have a group looking for a fun outing? Contact us at 970-880-4841.



### WATER SAVINGS

# 2430

## Gallons per Week

Our new Literary Garden irrigation system will save thousands of gallons of water a year.



### BULB SALE

# 238

## Buyers

A hardworking team of volunteers introduces homeowners to the value of adding bulbs to their landscape.

### GARDENS ON TOUR

# 419

## Visitors

The largest tour of public and private gardens in the area grows each year in numbers and quality.



"Your work to beautify the public space surrounding the library is appreciated. I pass by the site almost daily and always slow down, take in the sights, and it calms me a bit. I have an uncle on the bookcase wall and I also like to say hello to him. Thanks for making this space of peace in our community."

*Joshua Freeman*

### GREAT GARDEN SERIES

# 304

## Attendees

Throughout the summer we produce, in association with the library and the CSU Extension Office, a series of presentations on great gardening ideas and techniques.



### MEMBERSHIP

# 421

Our member rolls continue to grow as the community recognizes the value we add to Durango's livability.

Thank you!

### YOUTH PROGRAM

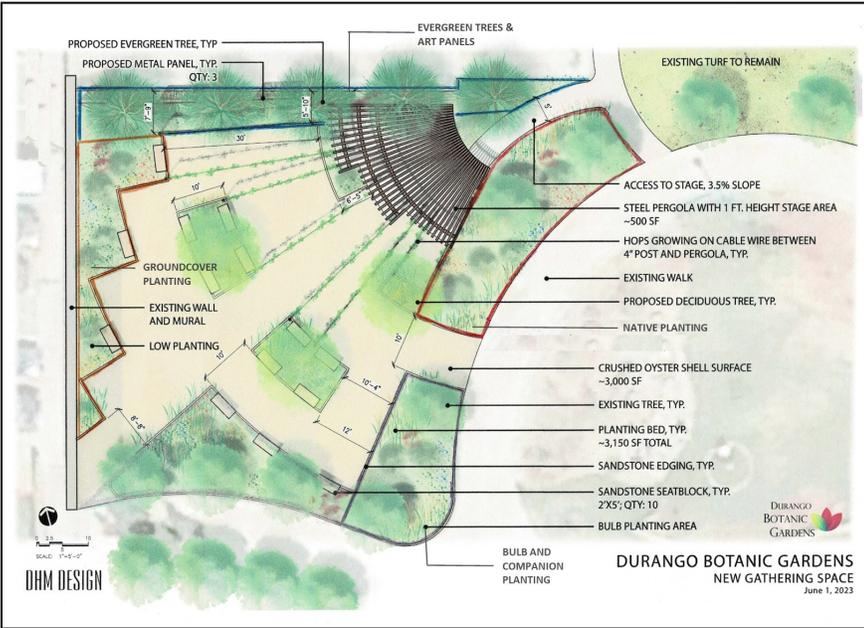
# 618

## hours of contact

250 students participated in 7 classroom sessions, 24 garden sessions, and a Farmers Market booth with 12 different Docents helping.



# The Next Big Things



The capstone of our Master Plan is the design and building of the *Community Venue Garden*, a public garden featuring groundcovers, native plants, and bulbs while also providing a beautiful new space for community and private events. Designed by Durango's DHM Design, the area envisions a stage and plenty of space for lounging, reading, hanging out. We intend to begin work on this new garden in 2024.

## Our work depends on members, donations, and grants

Our volunteers put in hundreds of hours of work in the Gardens, giving tours, producing free classes in gardening, and more. We can do this and keep our Gardens admission free, open to all, because of our members, donors, and grantors. Perhaps someone like you. And, if you're not a member or donor yet, we would truly welcome you as a supporter. You will be supporting a truly valuable community asset.

**JOIN AS A MEMBER.** Your investment of \$35 for an individual membership or \$55 for a family membership is easily paid back and more with all of our member benefits, including discounts at local nurseries, free admission to a host of public gardens in the U.S., and many other benefits.



**DONATE.** We welcome general donations of any amount but you may also wish to consider purchasing a bookcase stone or pathway stone in our Demonstration Garden. There are many other legacy products to commemorate your support, honor a loved one, or recognize your children or grandchildren.



## “Creating public gardens for demonstration, education, and inspiration”

Our mission statement is simple and direct. Accomplishing that mission is less simple, less direct and depends on lots of volunteer hours. So *why* do we do it? Actually our inspiration is YOU and all the people like you who regularly take a few moments to stop and thank us for maintaining the award-winning public gardens around the library. It's also because of the 400 people we now count as members or those who donate to our mission and add a kind word or two when doing so. All of us, together, have made the Durango Botanic Gardens something for Durango to treasure and share.

*Bill LeMaire*

Bill LeMaire  
President  
Durango Botanic Gardens



DurangoBotanicGardens.org

“Your gardens were a delightful surprise and exceeded expectations. Enjoyed an informative conversation with your enthusiastic Curator who was onsite. Melanie is a great representative!”

Bill and Deanna  
Centennial