INVESTING IN
POSSIBILITIES
2013 | 2014 ANNUAL REPORT
In one of her most famous poems, Emily Dickinson encourages us to “dwell in possibilities.” The people of this region have embodied this state of mind for decades. This mindset has empowered our community not only to—in the words of former Denver Mayor Federico Peña—“imagine a great city,” but to create it. The Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation has spent the last 40 years investing in possibilities by equipping our region’s leaders with the tools they need to make meaningful contributions to our community.

This year the Leadership Foundation expanded its programming with the addition of Civic Refresh, giving more community leaders the opportunity to explore broad perspectives on the Denver metro region’s issues and opportunities. By offering additional chances to engage, community leaders have formed deeper connections with fellow leaders and have embraced the collaborative spirit that has propelled our region forward.

We also partnered with five major Colorado civic institutions to release the first-ever Colorado Civic Health Index, revealing that though our state leads the way in participation in important civic activities such as voting and volunteering, civic life is not shared equally by all Coloradans. These findings inspired us to further our efforts to prepare leaders to foster a community where all can contribute and thrive.

We are also exploring new ways to engage and activate our alumni. This year, our annual Fall Forum focused on the game-changing work that our alumni are doing in our community to invest in possibilities in their daily lives, building on the lessons learned and topics explored while participating in our programs.

As you read this annual report, we invite you to celebrate with us the work of this organization and its alumni to make the impossible possible.

Katie Kramer
Executive Director

Cindy Parsons
Chair, Board of Directors
INVESTING IN: A 40-YEAR LEGACY

Over 400 alumni and community leaders celebrated the 40th anniversary of Leadership Denver, the flagship program of the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation. Since the first Leadership Denver class graduated in 1974, over 3,000 regional leaders have leveraged their experiences as participants in the programs of the Leadership Foundation to make a lasting impact on our community. From FasTracks and the redevelopment of Lowry to the Denver International Airport and our sports arenas—no matter where you look in our city, you can see the transformative impact of Leadership Foundation alumni.

THE LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION AT A GLANCE

VISION
Inspiring a diverse community of leadership to improve Colorado.

MISSION
Providing content, context and access to inspire leaders to engage in issues critical to the region’s success.

VALUES
• Cooperative, collaborative relationships
• Inclusivity and diversity of perspective
• Dedication to quality
• Commitment to volunteerism
Leadership Denver (LD) equips leaders with knowledge of important regional issues and new connections that can be instrumental in creating a vibrant community. This year Leadership Denver celebrated 40 years of promoting meaningful civic engagement and fostering a sense of community among Denver’s leaders from the private, public and nonprofit sectors.

Karla Maraccini, Office of Community Impact, Office of Governor John W. Hickenlooper:

The [Leadership Denver] experience provided me with an enriched and safe space in which I could gain a better understanding of the impact of poverty on our communities, our education system, social welfare and social justice, and other challenges and areas for reform in our communities. I have learned that in order for those of us in government to more effectively harness the collective talent and goodwill of others in addressing these issues, we first have to better educate, motivate and engage.

In investing in: Taking Denver to the Next Level

- This year’s LD class piloted the Positive Leadership model, which included leadership development curriculum along seven essential capacities. This model provided opportunities for class participants to reflect on their leadership style and to discuss the issues of focus throughout the LD year.
- The Class of 2014 explored the issue of hunger around the metro area on Poverty Day. The newest LD alumni will partner with Hunger Free Colorado, GrowHaus and Food Rescue Alliance for their class project to help fight hunger in our community.

59 Denver leaders participated in Leadership Denver 2014.

100% of participants agreed that Leadership Denver was a good investment in their growth.

100% of the Class of 2014 believes that Leadership Denver increased their awareness of regional issues with relevant, applicable content.
100% of the delegates felt that LEX helped them to build meaningful relationships and connections with other community leaders.

161 delegates participated in LEX 2013, representing 27 different industries.
LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE: PITTSBURGH

Leadership Exchange (LEX) is an annual city-to-city trip that convenes our region’s top leaders to strengthen collective vision and collaboration in our community, provide inspiration for solutions to regional issues and forge relationships among metro Denver’s top leaders.

Lorii Rabinowitz, Rebound Solutions:

I have not stopped talking about Bill Strickland and Manchester Bidwell Corporation since I returned from LEX Pittsburgh. A Denver steering committee was created to launch a feasibility study to bring this game-changing programming to Denver; I serve as convener. Should Denver be approved as a strong site for replication, we will continue the effort through the remaining phases establishing community partnerships along the way. In total, the process has been exhilarating. It has been so exciting to see the groundswell of support, of Denver area citizens moved by Bill’s work and his words and eager to help bring the concept to Denver. I am honored to be part of it and can’t wait to see what the future brings.

INVESTING IN: INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

• After learning about the innovative education efforts of Manchester Bidwell, an organization providing youth arts programs and adult workforce development courses in an impoverished area of Pittsburgh, a local feasibility study was launched to bring this education model to the Denver metro area.

• As members of the delegation observed collaboration in Pittsburgh, they were inspired to explore strategies for building diverse coalitions to find solutions to the energy debate in Colorado.
Impact Denver (ID) provides up-and-coming leaders with an introduction to local business and civic issues, collaborative community engagement experience and networking and mentorship opportunities to promote civic, professional and personal growth.

Ryan Padilla, RAS & Associates:
As a result of my ID experience, I’m going to leverage my talents and invest time to positively impact the local community. I plan to stay connected with my project team partner organization and offer my time to continue to help them make a difference in the lives of underserved youth in metro Denver.

69 leaders participated in Impact Denver.

98% of the Class of 2014 felt that Impact Denver helped them to initiate or improve their civic engagement skills.

100% of participants said Impact Denver provided them with experiences that expanded their knowledge base.

Farhana Morales, Courtney Jones, Stephanie Dybisky, Katelyn Roberts, Charles Gilford

INVESTING IN: THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

- ID participants engaged in collaborative projects to serve seven community organizations: Northeast Denver Leadership Week, Reading Partners, Mile High Montessori, Open World Learning, Denver City Lacrosse, Executives Partnering to Invest in Children and Read12. Participants held book drives, served as mentors to high school students, developed strategies for fundraising and marketing, wrote grants, planted gardens and drafted budgets and sustainability plans to help these nonprofits serve the people of the metro area—all while learning more about issues around the metro area.

- The Leadership Foundation launched its first-ever board shadowing program to give ID participants the opportunity to learn more about meaningful board service. ID participants were paired with Leadership Foundation alumni who serve on boards and will shadow them in their upcoming year of service.
ACCESS DENVER

Access Denver (AD), a two-day intensive program for senior-level executives, gives top business leaders exposure to broad perspectives on Denver issues and opportunities and access to fellow executives and influential leaders.

Steve Kreidler, Metropolitan State University of Denver:
“I will be much more attuned to the collaborative nature and the culture around which to make decisions, create connections and make progress both at the university and as a civic contributor.”

Helen Kaminski, White Wave Foods Company:
“The most valuable aspect of Access Denver is networking with like-minded people and hearing an overview of the most pressing issues facing Denver.”

INVESTING IN: EXECUTIVE EXCELLENCE

• Hearing from local and national leaders and experts, the AD Class of 2014 explored the metro area’s most pressing issues, including infrastructure, education, water and energy.

• The senior executives of AD 2014 comprised the largest class in the history of the program.

56 senior-level executives and two undergraduate students from the Colorado Leadership Alliance attended AD.

100% of participants felt that the experience gave them the tools they need to engage in the community and deepen their community connections.
71 delegates traveled to Pueblo.

100% of the delegates felt Colorado Experience helped them to contextualize and interrelate issues within the region.
COLORADO EXPERIENCE: PUEBLO

Colorado Experience (CE) is a two-day trip that immerses metro Denver leaders in the issues and opportunities of another Colorado city, encouraging dialogue on statewide business and policy issues and fostering collaboration in the metro area and across the state.

*Sara van Rensburg,* Colorado Thought Leaders Forum:
The most valuable thing about Colorado Experience has been understanding the culture of the communities outside the metro area. My organization has been evaluating the possibility of expanding our footprint across the state. Because of my participation in Colorado Experience, I was able to reach out to community and business leaders to gain insight and hear their perspectives.

*Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia and Kristin Todd*

**INVESTING IN: REGIONALISM**

- For many delegates, this trip dispelled many of the long-held impressions about the city of Pueblo and the value it offers to the region.
- Pueblo has attracted many international companies, such as Vestas Wind Systems and EVRAZ, in recent years. Delegates from Denver learned about the key characteristics of this southern Colorado community that led these businesses to expand in Pueblo.
- As Denver leaders seek to revitalize neighborhoods around the metro area, they can note valuable lessons from Pueblo’s recent redevelopment of its historic downtown and riverwalk, once blighted and now bustling after investment from the public and private sectors.
220 students from 12 Colorado universities participated in the 2014 CLA Summit.

38 business leaders mentored CLA students at the CLA Summit.
COLORADO LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

The Colorado Leadership Alliance (CLA) is a consortium of leadership education programs at 12 Colorado universities that equips students with skills for civic engagement and career success and connects students to Denver leaders through the annual CLA Summit.

Darren Markley, US Bank, The Private Client Reserve:
Every student that I have met as a mentor at the CLA Summit has humbled me with their amazing enthusiasm for leadership, academics, civic engagement and the possibilities for the future. Through sheer tenacity and focus these students have risen to the highest level of academia and taken on leadership roles at their respective universities. Every year I leave the CLA Summit with a renewed sense of enthusiasm for our youth, our country and our future—it’s in good hands!

Megan Gibson, 2014 graduate of Metropolitan State University of Denver:
The CLA Summit is a day where students can focus on the big issues in Colorado. During this day, we are more than just college students, we are “changers.” This experience has not only opened up a door for a job after graduation but also provided me with connections that will help me follow through with my goals created during the CLA Summit.

INVESTING IN:
A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR COLORADO

• The CLA Summit incorporated the first-ever Summit Mentors Walk, pairing some of Denver’s top leaders with undergraduate students to offer insight and advice into professional success, civic engagement and the benefits of building a career in Colorado.

• Students drafted an action plan that Coloradans, communities and our state government could implement to improve statewide disaster preparedness during a problem-solving exercise. Students had the opportunity to present their plans to metro area leaders and talk through the issue.

• CLA Summit keynote speaker and CLA alumnus Daniel Epstein, founder of Unreasonable group + Unreasonable at Sea, spoke to students about the importance of collaboration and his experience as a global entrepreneur in Colorado.
CELEBRATING CIVIC LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

At the annual Celebrating Civic Leadership Luncheon (CCLL), the Leadership Foundation honors the 9NEWS Leader of the Year and features speakers who inspire meaningful community among Denver’s leaders.

Amy Venturi, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation:
I first heard Bill Strickland while touring Manchester Bidwell on the LEX trip to Pittsburgh. I invited several people from my company to hear him speak at the Celebrating Civic Leadership Luncheon. I rushed back into town for the luncheon, suitcase in tow. As much as I enjoyed listening to him again, I most enjoyed watching the faces in the crowd. You could see it—every person in that room wanted to do more for this community. Because of that day, I’m a part of the steering committee for the feasibility study to replicate the Manchester Bidwell model in Denver. Experiences like the one we had at the Celebrating Civic Leadership Luncheon remind people that they can make a difference.

9NEWS and the Leadership Foundation honored the 16th Leader of the Year, Lisa Hill, executive director of Invest in Kids.

650 alumni and community leaders gathered to hear from the keynote speaker, Bill Strickland, and honor the 9NEWS Leader of the Year.

$130,000 was raised to benefit the work of the Leadership Foundation.

INVESTING IN: UNITING DENVER’S LEADERS

• Bill Strickland’s keynote address at the luncheon created public awareness, overwhelming support and excitement for the possibility of replicating the Manchester Bidwell education and workforce development model in our own community. As a result, the City of Denver launched a feasibility study.

• CCLL increased awareness of the important work being done to promote health among mothers and their young children through Invest in Kids.
FALL FORUM

With a new TED Talk-style, the Fall Forum features alumni whose contributions to the community have had a transformative impact on the region.

Justin Ball, Bespoke Event Group:

My biggest lesson learned at the Fall Forum came from speakers Kimball Crangle and Rick Peterson in their shared presentation on Mariposa redevelopment: Remembering the personal investments and traditions of individuals and small groups is key in gaining buy-in and success of your project. Acting on these lessons learned in directing organizational change, leaning in to listen, erasing my personal assumptions and being intentional in seeking and utilizing input from all stakeholders has brought strength and credibility to my company’s projects.

100% of attendees felt the Fall Forum helped them to increase their awareness of regional issues, contextualize regional issues, gain access to thought leaders and build meaningful relationships.

93% percent of attendees felt that Fall Forum helped them to improve their civic engagement skills.

INVESTING IN: COMMUNITY GAME CHANGERS

Five alumni of Leadership Foundation programs shared their stories of meaningful and impactful civic engagement that “changed the game” in the community.

Jamie VanLeeuwen | Global and Local Leadership Lessons
Kimball Crangle & Rick Petersen | Transformation of the La Alma Neighborhood
Rebecca Holmes | New Solutions in Education
Councilman Christopher J. Herndon | Northeast Denver Leadership Week
CIVIC REFRESH

In this new, experiential program series, alumni and community leaders update their knowledge of the issues and trends facing the metro area and discuss how they can contribute to the solution.

Don Richards, Richards Financial Group, Inc.:
I thought the day was outstanding. Whether one is an alum or not, these kinds of timely and relevant sessions help us to be better leaders.

Ruth Rohs, IMA Foundation, IMA Financial Group:
Civic Refresh gives alumni the opportunity to be reminded of what is happening in our own backyard. We get focused on our own lives and forget about issues affecting our community that we might not consider every day. Bringing a group together of diverse experiences and perspectives drives great dialogue.

The number of participants nearly DOUBLED after the first event.

More than 1/3 of those at Civic Refresh were first-time Leadership Foundation participants.

INVESTING IN: A FRESH PERSPECTIVE

• As the first new continuous Leadership Foundation program in three years, Civic Refresh brought new life to the organization and new opportunities for alumni engagement.

• Civic Refresh broadened participants’ perspectives of the changing landscape of the criminal justice system and economic development.

• Though primarily a means of offering continuing education on community issues to our alumni, this program also served as an introduction to the Leadership Foundation for those interested in getting involved with the organization.
CINDY PARSONS, Chair of the Board, Vice President, Public Relations, Comcast
KATIE KRAMER, Chair-Elect, Vice President and Assistant Executive Director, Boettcher Foundation
DAN LEWIS, Immediate Past Chair, Chief Public Affairs Officer, Molson Coors Brewing Company

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AMY VENTURI, Director of Social Investment, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
TRAVIS WEBB, Managing Partner-Colorado, BKD, LLP
BERT WILLIAMS, CEO, Johnson Financial Group
TAMI YOUNG, President, AdvenTech
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- 9News
- Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
- Boettcher Foundation
- Comcast
- DaVita HealthCare Partners
- Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce
- MillerCoors
- MolsonCoors Brewing Company

### $10,000 - $24,999
- Bryan Cave LLP
- El Pomar Foundation
- Kaiser Permanente
- Lockton Companies
- Merrick Companies
- U.S. Bank
- UnitedHealthcare
- Wells Fargo
- Xcel Energy

### $5,000-$9,999
- FirstBank
- Baker & Hostetler LLP
- Be Intentional
- BKD, LLP
- Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
- Children's Hospital Colorado
- Craig Hospital
- CRL Associates
- Daniels Fund
- Flood and Peterson
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- University of Colorado Denver
- University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus
- University Physicians Inc.

### $1,000-$4,999
- GE Johnson Construction Company
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- Hill Family Foundation
- Invest in Kids
- Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC
- Johnson & Wales
- Leadership Denver Class of 2009
- Leadership Denver Class of 2014
- McWhinney
- Mile High United Way
- Ms. Gail Schoettler | Ms. Judi Wagner
- Public Education Business Coalition
- Quickland Technology Group
- Rebound Solutions
- Regis University
- RTL Networks, Inc.
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- Southwest Airlines
- UMB Bank, N.A.
- University of Denver | University College
- University of Colorado Health
- VOCA Public Relations
- WorkNvision

### 305 Community Leaders

305 community leaders invested their time and talent in the work of the Leadership Foundation.
2013-2014 REVENUE AND INVESTMENTS

YOUR INVESTMENT IN THE LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

- Administration | $37,623
- In-Kind | $120,700
- Leadership Development Programs & Events | $984,637
- Scholarship Donations | $26,347
- Sponsorship | $485,320

OUR INVESTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

- Administration | 17%
- Fundraising | 4%
- In-Kind | 9%
- Leadership Development Programs & Events | 70%

LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION TEAM

Back row:
Mara MacKillop, Program Specialist
Danielle Mellema, Marketing & Communications Specialist
Dave Suss, Senior Operations Manager

Middle row:
Denise King, Senior Program Manager
Kirsten Vermulen, Program Manager
Mikaela Gibson, Programs & Events Coordinator
Jenna Farley, Alumni Engagement Manager

Front row:
Beth Justice, Executive Assistant
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PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

ACCESS DENVER 2014
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Donna Baros, Colorado PERA
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Shannon Block, Denver Zoo
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Megan Fisher, Denver Museum of Nature & Science
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Jennifer Nealson, The Denver Center for the Performing Arts
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Kristi Shaffer, Junior Achievement - Rocky Mountain, Inc.
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Abram Sloss, Denver Metro SBDC
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Farhana Morales, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
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Deborah Williams, Hungry Eye Media
David Wood, Mortenson Construction
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Sandy Young, Denver Broncos
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Paul Aspen, DaVita
Seth Belzley, TransMontaigne Inc.
Peter Bernstein, Bank of the West
Stephanie Bruno, SBWA, LLC
Jennifer Chang, Cisco Systems
Clay Cousins, Newfield Exploration
Kathryn DeBord, Bryan Cave LLP
Jude Del Hierta, Confluence Ministries
Joshua Dimond, Aimco
Theresa Donnelly, Xcel Energy
Josh Geppelt, Lawrence Street Shelter (Denver Rescue Mission)
Edweena Gilmore, Gilmore Construction Corporation
Bethany Gravel, The Kenney Group
Aarkan Haile, Kutak Rock LLP
Taylor Henderson, Dow Solar, a division of The Dow Chemical Company
Zach Hochstadt, Mission Minded
Aaron Hyatt, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
Whitney Johnson, Museum of Contemporary Art Denver
Matt Kaspari, Kaspari
Vanezia Kerr, City Year
Ann King White, BKD CPAs & Advisors, LLP
Jon Kinne, RK Mechanical, Inc.
Katherine Kranz, Pinnacle Assurance
Jennifer Landrum, Denver Preschool Program
Pat Landrum, Social Venture Partners
Heather Larabee, Whole Foods Market
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Sara Montgomery, Wells Fargo Bank, NA
Zachary Mugge, Robinson Waters & O’Dorisio, P.C.
Lindsay Neil, STRIVE Preparatory Schools
Tiffany Payne, Comcast
Catherine Peterson, Accenture
Lori Pickel, Public Education & Business Coalition
Kyle Ramstetter, Flood & Peterson
Naquetta Rick, Network Financial Group, LLC
Mark Ritacca, VMware
Jacy Rock, Suncor Energy Services, Inc.
Ryan Ross, Community College of Denver
Evan Rothstein, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
Catherine Schwartz, self employed (contracted through Waddell & Reed)
Quincy Shannon, Quintessential Remedy
Dedrick Sims, Sims Fayola International Academy-Denver
Jennifer Sobanet, Colorado Department of Higher Education
Sally Spencer-Thomas, Carson J Spencer Foundation
Michael Strand, Snell & Wilmer LLP
Jason Strauss, SMG/Colorado Convention Center
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