

Support the

# **EAST COLFAX**

## **Community Bike Library**



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# East Colfax Community Bike Library

Organized by Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning

The **East Colfax Community Bike Library** will provide vital transportation options for the local community, including many immigrants and refugees who live around New Freedom Park. With over a third of residents speaking a non-English language at home, this is one of the most vibrant parts of Denver. Neighbors here come from such diverse countries as Burma, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, and Afghanistan—just to name a few. Of the remaining population, 25% are American-born Black individuals and another quarter identify as Latinx. This diversity makes the East Colfax neighborhood beautiful and culturally rich. In the words of an 11-year-old Burmese resident, **"I love my neighborhood because there are people from Burma like me here to support me, and people from a million other places who aren't like me here to teach me."**



At the same time, residents of this neighborhood face extreme poverty. Over the past two years, homicide and crime rates in the 80220 zip code have ranked highest in the city while it has been designated among the three *least* safe Denver neighborhoods. Families lack reliable transportation, live in food deserts, and report feeling isolated and unsafe.

The creation of the East Colfax Community Bike Library will encourage kids to move their bodies and learn a mode of transportation that will serve them throughout life. At the same time, neighborhood adults will be empowered to commute for crucial errands like medical appointments or grocery shopping.



Artwork by Topher Blair

***"Bikes would be great! I got a job this summer but can't go because I can't get there. If we had bikes, I could go. It would be good for my little brother too; he just sits at home bored all summer long. If we had bikes in the neighborhood, maybe my mom could get to her appointments on time."***

***~ 15-year-old Afghan girl***

The East Colfax Community Bike Library already has support from multiple founding partners:

- A generous grant from **The Colorado Health Foundation** is covering the cost of bikes, helmets, locks, and tools.
- Partners at **Boston P-8 School** will house the library on their campus, providing a secure and convenient location with a closed off portion of road ideal for riding practice.
- Mentors at **Northeast Transportation Connections** have shared a model for program excellence including safety and training protocols.
- Our friends at **GoodTurn Cycles** offer an intensive bike-repair class for youth. This will help prepare some program participants to be hired to supervise the library and maintain the bike fleet while acquiring valuable career skills.

**Now, the only thing missing is a proper storage container for the bikes.**

An easily securable, weather resistant shipping container big enough for a fleet of 20 bikes is an ideal storage space for the East Colfax Community Bike Library. We can't wait to decorate it with the logos of partners supporting its purchase and a mural created by P-8 students in collaboration with local artists!

**Support this innovative community program by helping to raise \$4,745 for the purchase and installation of a shipping container. Fewer than 100 donations of \$50 each will get us to our goal. Any amount moves us forward!**

