

Performers Recommended by Staff in Colorado Public Libraries

The following performers were recommended by staff in public libraries across Colorado in 2021. Listing within this document is not an endorsement by the Colorado State Library but is provided as a courtesy to library staff. The Colorado State Library does not guarantee the accuracy, relevance, timeliness or completeness of this information. Performers are listed loosely by type of performance.

# of recs	Performer name	Type	Comments	Virtual program options	Contact info
5	Meghan Casey, Rocky Mountain Puppets,	Puppets, ventriloquism	A great ventriloquist who uses the theme each year to present to libraries. She is very good at what she does and always involves audience participation. Great entertainment for kids of all ages. Toddlers to junior high age enjoyed the show. By far the most professional performance we have ever had. Very worth the fee.	Live and recorded	(303) 469-4155 rockymountainpuppets.com rockymountainpuppets@gmail.com
1	Mesner Puppet Theater	Puppetry	Mesner Puppet theater out of Kansas City, MO is excellent and new for 2022 will do a puppet promotion for Ocean of possibilities. We've had them come to the school for years performing puppet shows.	Recorded	www.mesnerpuppets.org
1	Alex Thomas & Friends	Puppets, caricature drawing, & animation	Based in Michigan; provides virtual workshops & performances nationwide, including STEAM, stop motion animation, puppetry, claymation, and pixilation animation.	Live	(313) 729-3328 https://www.alexthomasandfriends.com/
2	LocoMotion - The Science & Circus Arts Show	Juggling, theatre, movement, acrobatics, science	Peter Davison leads an amazing acrobatic show with a lot of science info woven into it. This show is packed with audience participation, education, and entertainment!	?	locomotionshow.com peter@locomotionshow.com 303-748-9244
5	Ann Lincoln	Juggling and magic	Her mix of comedy and juggling always delights the kids. She is so engaging and teaches the kids how to behave for a performance. Unfailingly professional. NOBODY gets the kids laughing like she does. She has amazing juggling skills & a great magic show as well. It's always presented with a good message about literacy and the library. She incorporates	Live and recorded	www.annlincoln.com annlincoln@annlincoln.com 303-388-2820

			storybook characters and the SRP theme and makes it interactive. She did a great job of making a variety of virtual videos on YouTube that were easy for parents and teachers to watch. The wonder in a child's eyes is amazing while watching Ann. She also has a foam party program that is amazing. It does do a number on the grass which takes a few weeks to recover ... but it does recover.		
2	Sam Malcolm	Juggling, comedy, education	Based in Denver. The kids thought he was funny and he kept us on the edge of our seats! Provides indoors and outdoors shows.	No	(720) 608-0657 http://sammalcolm.com/
1	Chad Wonder	Comedy, magic	A Nickelodeon Entertainer of the Year, Chad performs kid-friendly magic. Received numerous positive feedback from the public.	Live	https://idomagic.com/ 303-909-6226
1	Petso the Clown	Clowning, poetry	Petso isn't what we normally think of when we hear the word "clown." No floppy shoes, heavy face paint, or squirting flowers here! Thoughtful and engaging, Petso performs for children by responding to their interests and whims. We saw almost 40 attendees at his last performance and we can't wait to see his work!	?	http://www.petsodreamingshow.com/
1	Salida Circus	Circus events	With acrobats, jugglers, trapeze artists, unicyclists, stiltwalkers and more, Salida Circus provides tons of fun with their interactive performances.	?	jennsalidacircus@gmail.com https://thesalidacircus.com/
2	Denver Zoo	Animals	The Zoo provided an exciting opportunity for communities outside of the Denver Metro area to enjoy a large-scale, interactive, exotic learning experience made available at no cost to the library through a grant the Zoo received. – They offer scholarships; I've paid \$30 before for a program and it was wonderful!	Free videos; live sessions for a fee	outreach@denverzoo.org https://denverzoo.org/virtual-classroom/ (virtual shows)
2	Cheyenne Mountain Zoo (online and Zoo Mobile)	Animals	They did several interactive programs including Animal Jobs, Animal Mythbusters and Habitat Hike where they exhibited lots of animals and allowed kids to ask questions. For the Zoo Mobile: The animals were awesome and this was a summer event highlight.	Live	Edprograms@cmzoo.org Virtual events: www.cmzoo.org/events-programs/virtual-experiences/ Zoo Mobile: https://www.cmzoo.org/eve

					nts-programs/custom-animal-experiences/bring-the-zoo-to-you/ devin.p@natureseducators.org
2	Nature's Educators - Devin Paszek	Animals	The presenters are great with the kids and we always learn so much. They are reasonably priced and the presenters are good with working with the kids (and the animals). We used them twice this summer and they brought 2 different sets of animals (raptors and then reptiles) and each program was just a little bit different so it didn't feel redundant for our regular attendees. Better geared towards 1-5th graders vs. preschoolers.	Live virtual 30-minute classes; recorded options	info@natureseducators.org 720-495-9316 www.natureseducators.org/
1	Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge	Animals	They offered a FREE Monarch Butterfly Program for the younger children (under six) that was hugely popular. The presenter was wonderful with the children. She explained the butterfly life cycle, let the children dress up with butterfly wings and goggles that allowed them to "see like a butterfly."	?	www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/ 303-729-2273
1	Nature and Wildlife Discovery Center Pueblo	Animals	Nature and Wildlife Discovery Center Pueblo brought birds of prey.	?	719-549-2327 https://hikeandlearn.org/
1	Wolfwood Refuge	Animals	Amazing! They rescue wolves and bring them along on their presentation. It's great to let the kids (and teens, adults) see the wolves in person. Based in Ignacio.	?	www.wolfwoodrefuge.org/ (970) 946-9606
1	Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitation Center	Animals	We partnered with the Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, based in Boulder, which has very low-cost yet high-quality programming.	Recorded	https://www.greenwoodwildlife.org/outreach
2	Rocky Mountain Raptor Program of Fort Collins	Animals	Highly knowledgeable staff, an entertaining and informative presentation, and of course real hawks, owls and falcons. They were totally undaunted upon hearing that there would be a wide age range at the program. They did a wonderful job in not only bringing birds to enjoy but working with the kids and answering their questions. - Very popular, highest attended program and great virtual setup.	Live	www.rmrp.org 970-484-7756

1	Butterfly Pavilion	Animals	They're providing live virtual classes and field trips featuring butterflies, bees, arachnids, and more.	Live and recorded	https://butterflies.org/virtualearning/
1	Story Creations/ Denise Gard and her Border Collies	Storytelling with dogs, acting for teens and tweens	Denise incorporates her dogs into her stories which was really fun for the kids. High energy fun programs for kids of all ages. She offers a variety of programs. Our kids loved the dog and Denise did a good job incorporating our SRP theme in to her performance.	Recorded	719-229-5061 www.storycreations.org storycreations@yahoo.com
1	Indiana Bones	Storytelling	Thoroughly entertaining and keep the kids' attention the whole time! Based in Santa Fe but travels to CO.	?	http://storyteller.net/indiana-bones/ 702-234-5428
1	Beth Epley	Storytelling and music	She is an awesome storyteller. She gets the crowd involved in her stories. She is also affordable and was our second highest attended program. Love how she interacts with the audience	?	(303) 880-7755 SaucyDoodle@msn.com http://www.bethepley.com/
1	Rick Stromoski	Cartoonist	Rick Stromoski from Connecticut led a great hour-long Zoom class for elementary-aged kids where they learned to draw furry and feathered animals. He was professional, very easy to work with from afar and offers a wide variety of themed topics.	Live	860-550-2391 soup2nutz@cox.net
2	Arvada Center	Drama, creative movement, music	We did 2 programs with them (creative dramatics and creative movement). Both programs were run by a skilled instructor who had great control of the kids. These were VERY interactive. -- We partnered with The Arvada Center to offer a drum circle program that was wonderful for all ages and abilities. We highly recommend this partner!	Live	https://arvadacenter.org/education/for-educators
1	Play-Ground Theater Company	Theater, acting	They provide fun youth outreach classes. Currently providing pre-recorded and live virtual classes.	Live and recorded	http://www.playgroundtheatre.com/
5	Drum Safari-- Brandon Draper, Looking Up Productions	Drumming, puppets, and storytelling	We really have enjoyed Drum Safari, based in KS. They called themselves "edu-tainment" -- so they are very interactive and bring instruments for EVERYONE, but there is also a learning component that they tie into the Summer Reading theme. I would recommend this group, because they are very entertaining and the audience participation really adds to the performance.	Live	www.drumsafari.org/ drumsafari@gmail.com or draperama@gmail.com 505-239-9625

1	Charlie Williams, The Noise Guy	Sound effects, storytelling	Some educational value and very funny. He's currently offering live virtual shows.	Live and recorded	noiseguycw@gmail.com soundsafari.wordpress.com/425-606-7589
1	Wick School of Irish Dance Colorado	Dancing, music	The dancers were kids and teens, many of them competition level dancers. Based in the Denver metro area.	?	https://www.facebook.com/wickschoolcolorado/ (303) 902-8507
1	Neil McIntyre, aka Mr. Kneel	Music (hip hop)	Always has the crowd on their feet. Our kids loved Mr. Kneel's performance. He combined music and beat boxing in a creative way to promote reading and learning at his performance. He was excellent, talked to the kids about finding music they like that has a positive message and spoke about self-esteem in a great, non-direct way. Fun program that was really different than other library programs we've had.	Live	Boulder suzy@mrkneel.com https://mrkneel.com/ (303) 320-3505
1	Deepali Lindblom	Dance, music, theater	Deepali did a Bollywood dance presentation then provided step-by-step dance instructions for the audience. Great for ages 5-adults. Based in Denver.	?	deepali.ca/eng/home.html
1	Melanie Milburn	Music, author talks, early childhood ed, writing	Based in Durango, Melanie provides music and reading based performances ideal for kids preschool-2 nd grade that are energetic, fun, and encourage creative expression. She also provides sessions on writing and the creative process for kids in grades 3-5.	?	www.melaniemilburn.com/
3	Hunkta-bunkta - Katherine Dines	Music	Her music was wonderful and her whole program was so interactive. It kept the kids engaged and focused.	?	kdines@hunktabunkta.com hunktabunkta.com/
2	Kaleidoscope Music Studio/ Kids House of Joy - Beth Wilberger	Music	We really enjoyed Kids House of Joy, based in Boulder. It is a family Mom, Grandma and two boys who play many instruments. Their show was very interactive and inspiring. Loved the energy and having the kids in the show really invited participation. They took us around the world with music - songs and different instruments.	?	https://kaleidoscopemusicstudio.com/house-of-joy 720-234-7900
1	Didgeridoo Down Under	Music	Very professional and educational. I did not know didgeridoo music could be so enjoyable.	Live and recorded	darren@didgrevolution.com https://www.didgeddownunder.com/

1	Jammin' Randy--Randy Sauer	Music	Singer-songwriter provides very engaging children's music performances that involve the whole crowd.	?	randy@jamminrandy.com 785-623-9378 www.jamminrandy.com/
3	Steve Weeks	Music	Steve Weeks is personable and very easy to work with. The kids were talking about him all summer. He's an award-winning family musician who plays interactive music geared towards young children, but every adult in the crowd (including me!) had just as much fun as the kids did. Each song is a story or a game, with some way for the audience to participate, so it's fun--and the music itself is clever and enjoyable. His family friendly entertainment works for large or outdoor spaces.	Live	www.steveweeksmusic.com/ contact@steveweeksmusic.com
2	Swallow Hill Music	Music	1. Instrument petting zoo: kids got to see, touch and test different musical instruments. 2. Swallow Hill hosted four ukulele classes for our library, ranging from age 5 to adult. The classes filled quickly, and were a huge success.	Live and recorded	swallowhillmusic.org/
1	Block 1750 Hip Hop class	Music-- Hip hop	Community dance center based in Boulder; provides hip hop classes at your library	Live and recorded	https://block1750.com/ HELLO@BLOCK1750.COM
1	Mike Schneider	Music	We have Mike Schneider from Pint Sized Polkas come join us - he was a BLAST, super professional, and a joy to host.	No	www.pintsizepolkas.com/
1	Edith Makes a Paper Chain	Music	Based in Colorado Springs.	?	jeremyvanhoy@gmail.com www.facebook.com/edithpaperchain/
1	Leon Joseph Littlebird	Native American storyteller and musician	Provides virtual performances. Combines acoustic guitar, storytelling, and native flutes. Based in Silverthorne.	?	leonjosephlittlebird@icloud.com www.littlebirdmusic.com/
1	Michael Casey of Peak Elevations	Music, magic, inspiration	Michael grew up with the same syndrome as the character from Wonder. His show had music, magic and inspiration. Michael was so fun; kids and adults alike enjoyed his show.	?	(303) 469-4155
1	Julia Reid	Music-Flute	Julia Reid has a lot of knowledge and is great with all age groups. She showed us a variety of flutes and taught rhythm and telling simple stories through music.	?	juliareid.bandcamp.com/
2	Sarahndipity Johnsen	Music, dance, animals	Sarahndipity children's author and educator in Grand Junction who focuses on the whole child. Puts on a delightful	Live and recorded	animalsgetfunky@gmail.com

			interactive show full of song, dance, and silliness. Based on her book and accompanying album titled From A-Z: Animals Get Funky, the show teaches kids about animals, health, the alphabet, and more.		animalsgetfunky.com
2	Rocky Mountain Ukelele Orchestra- Gary Jugert	Music-- Interactive ukelele	He brings all the instruments. He is very engaging and makes learning a stringed instrument fun and doable. Gary is very easy-going making everyone comfortable learning ukulele. Everyone had fun!	Live and recorded	garyjugert@yahoo.com http://ukuleleorchestra.org/
1	Dino O'Dell	Music	Dino is a musician extraordinaire with books, CD's and DVDs about space characters. Our librarians thought he was so good they are asking for a repeat next year.	Live and recorded	Dino@DinoODell.com https://www.facebook.com/dino.odell.3
1	Jim Gill: Play for All Young Children	Music	Jim Gill does wonderful live performances and gets the children up and dancing. We often use his music for storytimes!	Recorded	708.763.9864 https://www.jimgill.com/
1	Grupo Tlaloc Danza Azteca	Dance, Aztec culture	This was one of the best workshops ever. The performer was excellent. He came in full ceremonial dress and taught us about the history and culture of the Aztecs and an Aztec dance.	?	Jeff Porter of Think360 Arts of Denver (720) 904-8890 http://www.grupotaloc.org/
1	Koffi Togo	Music, dance	African music and dance. Koffi is a Musician, Drummer, Percussionist, Composer and Choreographer.	?	koffitogo@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/koffi.toudji
4	Jeff & Paige Kagan, Boulder	Music and environmental science	Educational and fun, original music. They are lively, hilarious (even the kids think so), do current topics about ecology and use music all around the year's summer theme. Very professional and energetic.	Live and recorded	jeff@jeffandpaige.org
1	Elizabeth Fink-Henrikson	STEM	Her NASA presentation of the Mars Map was amazing. It was very engaging, it made the kids and adults think about what our future holds. Elizabeth is a teacher in Fruita and a Space Foundation Teacher Liaison Nat Geo Certified Educator.	?	sillieteacher@yahoo.com
2	Science Matters	STEM	A really big hit at our library and we would highly recommend them. This program never disappoints and the kids love them. One presenter did a program called "Polymer-a-Palooza" with many demonstrations and audience	Live	(303) 805-9287 www.sciencematters.tv/ Littleton

			participation, which was funny and fun, and let the kids do their own experiments and take them home. I liked that she stayed at the level that the young kids could understand. We thoroughly enjoyed her program and would recommend them!!!		
1	Gray Matters Science - Stephanie Urban	STEM	Our program was learning about fossils. The instructor was great with the kids and she had a great hands-on activity where the kids were able to dig for chocolate chip fossils	?	sburban@hotmail.com https://www.facebook.com/graymattersscience/
1	Talewise	STEM and storytelling	Rene Otto from Talewise (formerly Science Tellers) was amazing! She had kids and adults alike riveted to her story, curious about science, laughing at her antics and amped up for summer fun to come. I highly recommend her!	Live and recorded	https://www.talewise.com/
2	Fiske Planetarium	STEM - Planetarium	The Fiske Planetarium at UC- Boulder was amazing. Their staff was extremely knowledgeable and easily adapted to the different age groups that came. It was the talk of the town. They have a portable planetarium as well.	Live and recorded	https://www.colorado.edu/fiske/educators 303-492-5002
2	Denver Museum of Nature and Science	STEM	The museum offers a range of fun science programs at your library, and also has live virtual classes. They provide EXCELLENT programs, well worth the cost. Wild Senses, children 2-5 years old experience and learn about animal senses in a multi-sensory environment. Their Virtual Sculpt-a-Saurus program was fantastic!	Live	http://www.dmns.org/teachers/offsite-at-your-place/
1	Cool Science	STEM	This nonprofit provides outreach science programs in the Pikes Peak region.	Live and recorded	www.coolspace.org/ 719-389-6431
1	Da Vinci Adventures	STEM	Da Vinci Adventures provides a variety of space-based interactive activity programs for kids. Inexpensive.	Live	Davinciadventures@gmail.com www.davinciadventures.com/
2	U.S. Forest Service	STEM — Smokey Bear, animals, outdoors, science, etc.	The Forest Service office has always obliged us with guest presenters when asked. I would suggest contacting their local branch office to see what they might offer--for free! Smokey Bear was a great hit with all the children so I would suggest contacting your local forest service to schedule a visit.	Recorded	Find contact info for your nearest U.S. Forest: https://www.fs.fed.us/ Recorded programs: https://fsnaturelive.org/

2	4-H	STEM	We partner with the CSU extension campus 4H program, which has been a wonderful partnership for offering steam-related programming. They provided incredible STEM programming activity free of charge!	Recorded & other remote options	CO program: http://co4h.colostate.edu/ Find your local 4-H club: https://4-h.org/find/
1	STEMpunked	STEAM and humanities	STEM+Arts & Humanities Programs with a steampunk edge; focus on interactivity, inquiry, creativity, making, and problem solving. Richard Blake is an EXCELLENT and unique presenter of science and art programs for kids, teens and adults!	Live	www.stempunked.com 720-252-5999
1	Colorado Mountain Club Bouldering Bus	Rock climbing	The Bouldering Bus is a mobile classroom outfitted as a bouldering cave that provides unique opportunities for students. It can combine the physical challenges of climbing with team building activities and hands-on science curriculum. Based in Golden.	No	https://www.cmc.org/Youth/BoulderingBus.aspx (303) 996-2745 registration@cmc.org
1	Free Range Playground	Pop up playgrounds and building structures	They bring all kinds of recycled items for building structures and having fun. They can go anywhere in Denver & surrounding areas. They are very well organized with great experience. We will have one building area for kids ages 5 - 11 without parents & another space for toddler - preschoolers with their parents/caregivers. They are easy to work with and reasonably priced.	No	http://www.freerangeplayground.org/ info@freerangeplayground.org
1	Yo-Yo Magic with Luke Renner	Yo yo demos and workshops	Very entertaining and will also do workshops. Based in NM but will travel to CO.	Recorded	http://www.lukerenneryoymagic.com/
2	Dave & Connie Elstun	Magic	Super fun. Kids loved him. One show features the couple as they chase the notorious and wanted by the library law rabbit, Dangnabbit, in a Western themed magic show performed to the beloved music of Aaron Copeland.	Customized recorded, & in-person socially distanced	dave@magicindenver.com http://magicindenver.com/
1	The Party People - Mr. E & Kyle Groves	Magic	This was our highest attended program. They are great people who put on a fantastic show every year and are affordable. The Grove family always delivers an amazing show that always ties into the SRP theme. Based in Pueblo.	?	719-582-1490 coloradamagician.com/ mre4magic@yahoo.com
1	Adam White	Magic	Lively and entertaining. Based in Nebraska but travels to CO.	?	https://adamwhitemagic.com/

1	Yoga Pod - Heather Kokx	Yoga, mindfulness	Yoga Pod mindfulness coach presented six workshops for adults. All were at capacity.	Live	303-221-4035 heathertheyogenerd.com/
1	Mountain Mamma Massage	Massage, yoga	Professional and great feedback from attendees.	Live	https://www.mountainmamamassage.com/
2	Denver Henna	Henna	Leah at Denver Henna does a great henna program for teens. Our teens love her henna design programs and it worked really well virtually this summer.	Live and outdoors	Leah@facefiesta.com www.denverhenna.com/
1	David Sanger	For parents on importance of reading with kids	I attended a conference where David Sanger gave us a presentation on the importance of reading out loud to not only younger kids, but to teens as well. He had a wonderful voice for the readings and he pulled certain pages from different books that leave you with a cliffhanger and you want more. David is an adjunct faculty member at DU.	?	dsanger401@aol.com
1	Andrew Gulliford	Western & environmental history	History professor at Fort Lewis College, author, and photographer who is an expert in environmental history and Western themes.	?	http://agulliford.com/ andy@agulliford.com
1	Frank Bergon	Western storytelling and Colorado history	A semi-local author who is great at talking about Western storytelling and Colorado History.	?	bergon@vassar.edu https://frankbergon.com/
2	All state parks	Mobile archery, wildlife, flora, STEM, etc.	All state parks should have staff available to provide programs at your library, free of charge. Contact your local park to see what they have to offer! The kids adore having fish and game come in to talk about local wildlife and they are pretty versatile in making programs fit with the SRP theme.	Live options from some parks	Go to http://cpw.state.co.us/ to find contact info for your nearest state park.
1	Aunt Katie	Author	She did an amazing author talk for our library. She provides author talks virtually via Zoom.	Live	https://auntkatiesplace.com/authorvisit/
1	Gail Goepfert	Poetry	We enjoyed a poet from out of state (Illinois), Gail Goepfert. She has three published works.	?	gaile13@aol.com https://www.pw.org/content/gail_goepfert
1	Kathleen Dignan	Virtual art classes	She ran a lot of tween and teen art classes for us over Google Hangout and was super great to work with and an awesome presenter.	Live	kdignan02@gmail.com

1	Adri Norris	Virtual art classes	Ran a virtual art program for teens and responded well to unexpected challenges.	Live	adri@afrotriangledesigns.com
1	Her Flowers	Anti-Racist workshops	Topical, great for teens and tweens, good for encouraging discussions for how to be an anti-racist.	Live	www.herflowersofficial.com
1	Mechanic Shop Femme; Chaya Milchtein	Car ownership and maintenance	Was very engaging virtually, and flexible when none of registered attendees showed up the day of. She offers online car ownership and maintenance classes designed to be accessible for everyone.	Live	chaya@mechanicshopfemme.com mechanicshopfemme.com/

