

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT CENTER



Youth Empowerment Center Improvements | Denver, CO
City and County of Denver
Huitt-Zollars | Denver, CO

OVERVIEW



The Youth Empowerment Center Improvements project transformed a heavily utilized community facility in Denver into a modern, flexible, and accessible resource for youth and families. Working within the existing 9,940-square-foot building, Huitt-Zollars delivered a comprehensive renovation that increased functionality, modernized building systems, and expanded usable space without increasing the building footprint.



CHALLENGE



The City needed to improve operational efficiency, accommodate growing program demands, and modernize aging infrastructure while keeping the facility operational. A key challenge was creating additional workspace and program capacity within the existing structure, which included undocumented conditions and limited opportunities for expansion.

SOLUTION

Huitt-Zollars developed an innovative adaptive reuse solution by converting an underutilized two-story atrium into a new second-level workspace containing offices, conference rooms, and collaborative areas. LiDAR scanning and reality-capture technology provided critical insight into existing conditions, allowing the team to integrate new structural elements while preserving the character of the facility and minimizing impacts to ongoing operations.



IMPACT

The renovated Youth Empowerment Center provides a more accessible, more inclusive, and more efficient environment for youth programming, mentorship, recreation, and community engagement. Accessibility improvements, modernized building systems, and flexible new spaces have expanded the facility's ability to serve the community while extending the life of an important public asset. The project demonstrates how innovative engineering and thoughtful design can maximize resources, create lasting social impact, and strengthen opportunities for Denver's youth and families.

