

Aurora, Colorado



In Colorado's third largest city, opportunity awaits. It's a place where you don't have to venture far for access to it all, for new experiences, for finding your passion, for laying down roots in livable, lovable neighborhoods, and for changing the world. In Aurora, you can work hard, play harder and just get more out of life.



This is Aurora

A 2019 City Update



AuroraGov.org



Aurora is Focused

During their early 2019 workshop, the Aurora City Council established a new council vision, goals and priority projects to provide direction for the future.

City goals as adopted in the new Aurora Places comprehensive plan

- **A Strong Economy:** A strong economy with active urban places is essential for the well-being of residents, businesses and the community.
- **Diverse and Equitable City:** Diversity and equity are assets to be nurtured and promoted by the city.
- **Housing for All:** High-quality housing options enable people across all socioeconomic levels, cultural identities and stages of life to establish and manage households.
- **A Healthy Community:** Eating healthy food, walking and exercising, living in a clean and safe environment, and having access to medical care improves the lives of all Aurorans and contributes to a stable community.
- **A Thriving Environment:** A thriving natural environment—including stewardship of water, energy and natural resources—is essential to the physical and mental well-being of residents and the city's ability to support future growth.
- **Easy Mobility and Active Transportation:** An easy-to-use transportation network with multiple travel choices supports a strong economy, healthy community and flourishing environment.
- **An Authentic Aurora:** The creation of great places, the preservation of traditionally unique places, and effective marketing and promotion are essential to improving Aurora's image.



Bob LeGare
Mayor



Bob Roth
Ward V (Mayor Pro Tem)



Crystal Murillo
Ward I



Nicole Johnston
Ward II



Marsha Berzins
Ward III



Charlie Richardson
Ward IV



Françoise Bergan
Ward VI



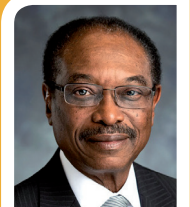
David Gruber
At Large



Allison Hiltz
At Large



Angela Lawson
At Large



Johnny Watson
At Large

City Council Priority Projects

- Gentrification Discussion and Analysis
- University of Colorado Hospital Patient Transport Funding and Coordination Issues
- Citywide Recreation Needs Analysis
- Develop Data on Procurement and Equity
- Affordable Housing Analysis
- Assess What Drives or Constrains Retail Development

City Council Vision Statement

The city of Aurora is engaged with its diverse residents and businesses by listening and responding, practicing responsible management of resources, and providing a vibrant economy rich with opportunity for all.

(A new mayor will be elected in November, and council seats for Wards IV, V, VI and two at-large positions are up for re-election.)



Aurora is Safe

The city's well-trained public safety personnel work around the clock to prepare for any type of emergency, providing exceptional service while ensuring our residents, businesses and visitors feel safe.

Aurora Fire Rescue

Growing to meet city needs for 2019

- Adding five new or replacement engines/ ladder trucks
- Replacing over 20 cardiac monitors with state-of-the-art, life-saving medical equipment
- Opening new fire stations to serve northeast Aurora



A top priority: Safe and healthy firefighters. The city has remodeled fire stations, acquired more bunker gear and developed a process to clean and inspect the gear, all in an effort to implement a comprehensive firefighter cancer prevention initiative.



Falck Rocky Mountain:
Aurora's exclusive emergency ambulance contractor



Falck

This global emergency medical services company operates with Aurora Fire Rescue to provide high quality EMS service in the city, responding to over 40,000 medical service requests annually. During an emergency response you will see these two organizations—Aurora Fire Rescue and Falck Rocky Mountain—working together to ensure the very best medical care for you and your family.

A growing city requires additional fire stations:

Station No. 16

Serving the area around the new Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center and the growing northeast corridor of the city, this station is staffed by a truck company and an engine company.

16

Station No. 17

This new station will serve the areas of Cross Creek, Adonea, Traditions and other new developments. The building will blend into the Harmony neighborhood and will be staffed by a new engine company.

17

Station No. 5

A large new building will replace the existing, aging station, which would have been costly to renovate. The new Fire Station No. 5, near Chambers Road and East Colfax Avenue, will be home to the department's Technical Rescue Team and an engine company.

5

Aurora Police Department

From specialized teams to state-of-the-art equipment, the Aurora Police Department constantly adapts to serve residents quickly, professionally and responsibly.

• Crisis Response Team

Newly formed teams of specially trained officers respond to crisis-related calls for service. The team's licensed clinicians ride with officers and can assist with clinical interventions and connect people to resources.

• Community Policing Advisory Team

This 16-member team from public, private sector and business partners bridges gaps between police and Aurora's diverse community to advise on issues like community policing and engagement strategies, crisis consulting, policies and improved communication.

• Unified Metropolitan Forensic Crime Lab

In 2018, the city of Aurora and its partners in the Arapahoe and Douglas county sheriff's offices, in coordination with the 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office, opened a \$13.5 million facility that houses a DNA/biology lab, firearms lab, bullet recovery tank and other specialized equipment that will help investigators solve crimes more quickly. Without raising taxes, this facility puts Aurora and its partners at the fore of state-of-the-art investigation work.



Aurora is Strategic

With a 160-square-mile city that is only half built, Aurora is intentional in how it's planning for the future.

This includes updating its comprehensive plan—a playbook for how the city develops—and its zoning code, which includes the requirements needed to shape development and the built environment into the city envisioned in the comprehensive plan. Maintaining and building on quality city services, being smart about how we grow, and connecting each part of the city in a way that makes sense is crucial to ensuring Aurora continues to thrive in the future

Original Aurora Zoning Update



- City Council approved zoning code update for Original Aurora in 2018 (separate from overall zoning code update)
- Area bordered by Yosemite Street, Peoria Street, East Sixth Avenue and East 26th Avenue
- Update based on community feedback
- Project Goals
 - ◆ Enhance the character of and create a unique identity for that area
 - ◆ Protect existing residential neighborhoods by creating zoning suitable to the area's urban context while also attracting quality mixed-use development and redevelopment that encourages architectural diversity and high-quality design
 - ◆ Further the vision as outlined in Aurora Places

Details at AuroraGov.org/OAPlan

Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan



- City Council approved October 2018
- 3,200 people engaged in public outreach
- Foundation for decision making about land use, development, transportation, public facilities and more
- Focuses on Aurora's future: a strong economy, a diverse and equitable city, housing for all, a healthy community, a thriving environment, improved mobility and active transportation, and an authentic Aurora

Plan at AuroraGov.org/AuroraPlaces

Northeast Aurora Transportation Study



- City Council approved update to multimodal transportation plans to serve northeast Aurora
- Area generally bordered by Picadilly Road, the southern boundary to Denver airport, Jewell Avenue and Schumaker Road
- Becomes an integral part of Aurora Places
- Updates followed community outreach
- Identified near, mid- and long-term transportation needs, including street, bikeway, sidewalk and trail connections

Plan at AuroraGov.org/NEATS

Zoning Code Update



- City Council to approve final draft later in 2019
- More than 4,000 comments received through public outreach Responds to new products, new materials and need for flexible and adaptable tools Reflects principles from Aurora Places.
- Additions include:
 - ◆ Inclusion of urban agriculture, gardening and food stands as new permitted land uses
 - ◆ Allowance of renewable energy projects in more zone districts
 - ◆ Allowance for new housing types to offer housing choices for a range of incomes, needs and lifestyles
 - ◆ An emphasis on block size and connectivity to provide transportation options and foster great neighborhoods that retain value over time

Draft at AuroraGov.org/ZoningCodeUpdate

Northwest Aurora Mobility Study



- City Council approved recommendations to improve mobility in northwest Aurora north of Montview Boulevard and west of Peoria Street
- Focused on short-term and mid-term improvements like walking and bicycling enhancements, traffic calming and better connections

Final report at AuroraGov.org/NWMobility

\$ Aurora is Reinvesting

Urban renewal of aging properties and development of undeveloped land within the existing city creates great places, revitalizes neighborhoods and spurs economic development, resulting in new housing choices, shopping and dining destinations, and places for businesses to call home.



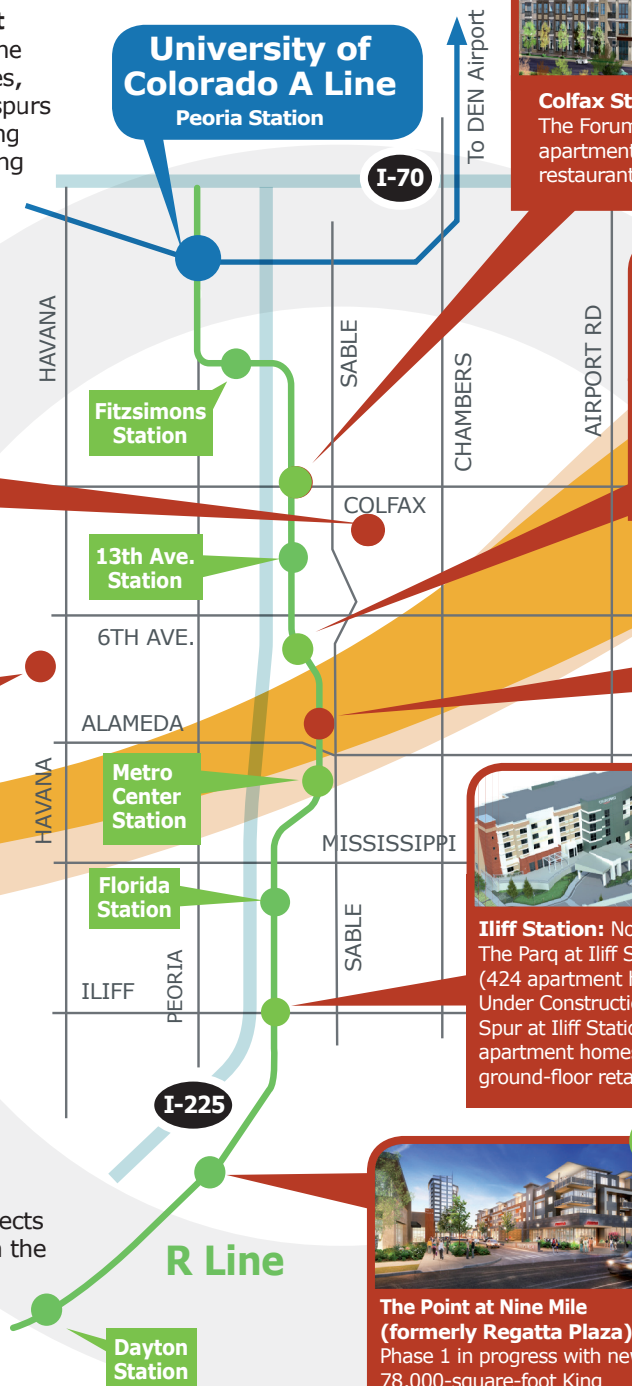
1
Citadel on Colfax: Under construction: Infrastructure work in progress, with construction to follow on phase I (two retail buildings and individual pad sites)



2
Argenta (formerly Fan Fare): Construction starting soon: 86 townhomes, 206 apartment homes, retail/commercial space and public park/plaza space

New Transit-oriented Development and Urban Neighborhoods

RTD's R Line has connected the metro area to Aurora, and continues to create new urban places to live, work and enjoy life. Innovative mixed-use projects also are filling in vacant land in the central corridor.



7
Colfax Station: Now open: The Forum Fitzsimons (397 apartment homes plus restaurant and retail space)



6
2nd and Abilene Station: Under construction: Marriott Courtyard at Abilene Station (opening 2019) Working on plans: Element by Westin



5
Parkside @ City Centre: Now Open: New Bok Financial. Under Construction: 26,000 square feet of retail (Next: five-story building with 216 apartment homes, pool, retail and integrated parking garage)



4
Iliff Station: Now Open: The Parq at Iliff Station (424 apartment homes) Under Construction: Spur at Iliff Station (316 apartment homes plus ground-floor retail space)



3
The Point at Nine Mile (formerly Regatta Plaza): Phase 1 in progress with new 78,000-square-foot King Soopers "Fresh Food Destination Store," and new Key Bank and retail

\$ Aurora is Opportunity

Our city is business friendly and gets creative when it comes to economic development. We are adjacent to Denver International Airport and connected to major transportation corridors. We know that companies value consistency, predictability and flexibility—and we deliver. Targeted industries in Aurora include aerospace, defense, bioscience, renewable energy, transportation and logistics.

Resources and partnerships dedicated to economic development, entrepreneurship and workforce training in Aurora attract new businesses and create jobs. The city's **Development Services Division** works in tandem with partners like the **Aurora Economic Development Council** to bring new businesses and jobs to the city. At the same time, the **Aurora-South Metro Small Business Development Center** and the **Aurora Chamber of Commerce** offer support, training, resources and connections to businesses of all kinds.

In the Last Two Years, Aurora has attracted and retained more than **35 primary employers** through its efforts, creating more than **5,700 jobs** and generating over **\$1.5 billion** in economic impact.

Filling Up: Office vacancy rates are at record lows; lease rates are at record highs.

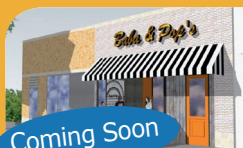
Accommodating Demand: **3.4 million feet** of new industrial space has been completed, with **3 million** under construction

Room to Grow: **2,000 acres** of shovel-ready land available for companies to establish new operations and expand corporate campuses

Catalizing Space: With a site operator license granted in 2018, the former Front Range Airport—now Colorado Air and Space Port—will pursue space transportation, research and development in Adams County. Ultimately, Aurora will benefit from the commercial development that will surround this horizontal launch facility.

Mixed Uses Near Rail: More than 100 acres of transit-oriented development land available near 10 transit rail stops with opportunities for flexibility, higher density and easy access to transit

Opportunity Zones: Five Census tracts in Aurora are eligible for federal tax incentives to encourage long-term investment in underserved areas of the city. JAG Logistics Center in Aurora is one of the first industrial Opportunity Zone projects in the country.



Zoom to Boom: Retail in Aurora

- **Restaurant Incentive Program:** This city program targets redevelopment of restaurants and blighted properties in northwest Aurora, with a focus on up-and-coming concepts and chefs. Restaurants opening in the future in that area include Mason's Dumpling Shop, Carm and Gia's Metropolitan, Baba & Pop's Handmade Pierogi, Third Culture Bakery, NORA Station and The Watering Bowl.
- **Havana Corridor:** The Havana Business Improvement District is thriving, with about 50 new and remodeled businesses making major investments in 2018. At least 10 new restaurants have arrived, including Snowl Café and Yunnan 10 Seconds Rice Noodles.
- **Southlands:** New retailers include Bent Barley Brewing Company and Dick's Sporting Goods

Building by the Numbers

Aurora's Building Division is the only building department in the state to achieve accreditation from the International Accreditation Service, ensuring the highest ethical, legal and technical standards while providing life-safety and property protection in the community.

- **Inspections:** Nearly 145,000 inspections completed in 2018—all within one day of the request
- **Permitting:** Multi-family permitting up 150 percent in 2018 compared with 2017
- **Plan Reviews:** More than 14,000 plan reviews were completed in 2018, an increase of 6.8 percent compared with 2017—all within established time frames close to 100 percent of the time.



Aurora is Connected

Mobility options are expanding at a rapid pace in cities worldwide, and **Aurora is committed to making it easier to get around the city.** Already, rail is changing who we are, connecting Aurora to the metro area and creating new opportunities with innovative development and housing options all along the light rail. Federal funds through Denver Regional Council of Governments have enabled us to add essential pedestrian and bicycle access to the light rail.

Coming Soon: Aurora's First Protected Bike Lanes

AuroraGov.org/TrailConnector

After much public input, construction is underway on the Westerly Creek Trail and Toll Gate Creek Trail Connections to Florida Station project, providing a trail connection for bicyclists and pedestrians between the Westerly Creek Trail, the Florida Station and the Toll Gate Creek Trail.

- **Includes city's first protected bike lanes:** 10-foot-wide, barrier-separated bidirectional cycle lanes on Florida Avenue between Florida Station and Chambers Road, and along Potomac Street, extending from East Louisiana Avenue to the pedestrian crossing of Potomac Street south to Jewell Avenue and then west along Jewell Avenue to Tucson Street and the entrance to Utah Park

Meeting Infrastructure Needs in Southeast Aurora

The South Aurora Regional Infrastructure Authority (SARIA) comprising 11 metro districts was created to finance and build regional transportation improvements in southeast Aurora. The metro districts have pledged their Aurora Regional Improvement mill level funds—a tax they collect on the assessed value of properties—to plan, design, build and finance transportation improvements in this area. Arapahoe County and the E-470 Public Highway Authority are partnering on some of the projects.

The overall master plan includes an estimated \$62.2 million in regional improvements, with an initial bond of \$11.6 million funding the following projects:

- Design and construction of Harvest Road improvements from Alexander to Orchard
- Design of Gartrell Road improvements from Dry Creek Road to Aurora Parkway including bridge widening and ramp improvements
- Design of the Aurora Parkway bridge over E-470
- Preliminary design and preliminary utility relocations to widen and improve Gun Club Road from Quincy Avenue south to Aurora Parkway
- Design and construction of an additional westbound lane on Quincy Avenue from Plains Parkway to E-470
- Contributions to the design and construction of the Quincy Avenue and E-470 ramp reconfiguration

Other area projects

- **Quincy/Gun Club Intersection Improvements:** Arapahoe County will start construction in August to redevelop this intersection to solve congestion issues; the city, county and federal funding combined will pay for the project.
- **E-470 Widening Project:** The E-470 Public Highway Authority is starting construction this year to add a third lane in each direction between Quincy Avenue and Interstate 70, relocate the Quincy Avenue northbound ramp, extend the High Plains Trail for bicycles and pedestrians, and more.





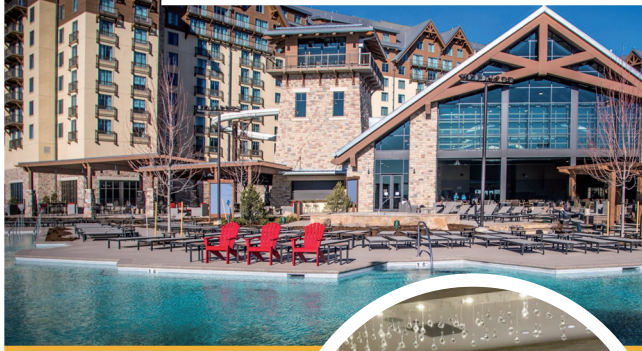
Aurora is Visionary

The area in Aurora north of Interstate 70 and east of Tower Road is developing in a phased, contiguous fashion, creating new opportunity for places to live, work and play.

Much of this falls in Aurora's section of the **aerotropolis**, which is the thousands of developable acres on and around Denver International Airport in Adams and Denver counties. Aurora is part of the Aerotropolis Regional Committee, a multi-jurisdictional group creating a unified vision, responsible and thoughtful growth, and attraction of primary employers.



Nearly
2 million
square
feet



17-room
European-
style spa



486,000+
square feet
of convention
floor space



8
food and
beverage
options



1,501
guest
rooms



1,200+
staff
members

\$800 million Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center

Opened in December 2018 at 6700 N. Gaylord Rockies Blvd., is a symbol of the strategic vision the city laid out many years ago for this new frontier in northeast Aurora.

Would you believe?

- **112 acres of dry wall**
- **2,845 square feet of interior glass**
- **More than 1.1 million reservations** already booked
- **22,000 square feet** of aquatic adventure, including a lazy river and three waterslides
- **26 fireplaces**
- **60,297 city inspections**
- **3,200+ sheets** of building plans produced

OTHER LOCATIONS:

- ★ **Gaylord National**
Washington, D.C.
- ★ **Gaylord Texan**
Grapevine, Texas
- ★ **Gaylord Opryland**
Nashville, Tennessee
- ★ **Gaylord Palms**
Kissimmee, Florida



Master plans are in place in northeast Aurora for the development of distinct, diverse neighborhoods, mixed-use housing, retail and entertainment centers, parks and open space, and places for businesses of all kinds to operate.

Much of this area falls within the Aerotropolis, the 25,000-acre area south and west of Denver International Airport.

- **Painted Prairie:** 628-acre walkable community opening in August; plans call for 3,200 homes, town center with shops and restaurants, open space and trails at build out
- **Rockies Village:** 129-acre development in planning stages: commercial, office, retail, multi-family residential, hotels, parks and open space
- **High Point:** 1,800-acre mixed-use, master-planned community will eventually feature 3,000 homes, 10 million square feet of business park development, up to 500,000 square feet of retail, and 300 acres of open space
- **The Aurora Highlands:** 3,100-acre mixed-use community starting in 2019
- **Prologis Park 70:** 500-acre business park featuring Amazon fulfillment center and distribution centers for GM Service Parts, Furniture Row, WinSupply, Safilo, Best Buy, Southern Glaziers, Niagara Bottling, Mastercraft, Interline Brands and O'Reilly Auto Parts
- **Majestic Commercenter:** 1,500-acre industrial park; home to 50+ companies and 5 million square feet of warehouse and distribution facilities, with hundreds of acres ready to attract e-commerce uses
- **Porteos:** 750-acre site located at the entrance to Denver International Airport; home to ParkDIA and coming soon, Karcher's new North American headquarters, JAG Logistics Center and other office, industrial and distribution uses, along with retail, restaurants and hotels
- **First Aurora Industrial:** 138-acre master-planned business park offering build-to-suit buildings up to 587,000 square feet, delivering a 555,000-square-foot Class A speculative building this summer

Planning for future needs

Northeast Aurora Transportation Study Refresh:

The newly updated land use and transportation plan for this area features a vision for a bicycle and pedestrian network, miles of new roadway, and an extensive public transportation system with high-frequency bus services and mobility hubs.

Aerotropolis Regional Transportation Authority:

This newly formed authority made up of the city of Aurora, Adams County and The Aurora Highlands was created to build roads and other infrastructure needed for that development.

Stephen D. Hogan Parkway: This extension of Sixth Avenue/State Highway 30 to E-470 will close a 2-mile gap in the regional transportation network once it's finished this fall.

I-70/Picadilly Interchange: Work is underway to reevaluate the 2007 environmental assessment for a new interchange on Interstate 70 to connect Picadilly Road with the Aerotropolis area. This will advance it to a more "shovel-ready" status, but funding needs to be secured before construction can start.





Aurora is Innovative

Defense, aerospace, healthcare and bioscience are Aurora's biggest employers, with the bulk of workers concentrated at and around Buckley Air Force Base and the Anschutz Medical Campus.

Buckley Air Force Base: America's first line of defense

Buckley Air Force Base is a critical part of the city and the region's economic health, and Aurora continues to work with Colorado's political and military leadership to protect this tremendous asset.

\$1 billion annual economic impact

12,000 defense workers

83+ organizations representing every military branch

Nucleus of the Colorado's aerospace industry

5,000 to 6,000 civilian employees

Colorado is the 2nd largest aerospace presence in U.S.

Key part of U.S. early warning systems

Global surveillance for rocket launches

Homeland defense flights

Buckley's white radomes:

Protect satellite network tracking and intelligence equipment

Collect data to detect and report threat information to U.S. and allied nations





21st century healthcare in Aurora



Anschutz Medical Campus and Fitzsimons Innovation Community are gaining a global reputation for fostering companies that will change and enhance health care now and into the future.

Anschutz Medical Campus: Bragging rights

- 579 acres on the former Fitzsimons Army Medical Center
- Contributes \$7 billion annually to the state's economy—more than the entire Colorado ski industry
- Includes the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, the University of Colorado Hospital, Children's Hospital Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center

University of Colorado Hospital: Big things coming

- **Planned Expansion:** A new 11-story tower with 103 more inpatient beds, nine operating rooms and room to grow opening in 2022.
- **Top Trauma Designation:** In 2018, the Aurora hospital earned the distinctive Level 1 trauma center designation (one of only four in Colorado).

Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center: Now open

- 12 buildings, 31 acres, 1.2 million square feet and serving 80,000-plus metro-area veterans
- Designed for specialty care like spinal cord injuries and cancer screenings
- Offers expanded telehealth, polytrauma and traumatic brain injury programs
- Focused on sustainability, including photovoltaic panels and optimal daylighting throughout the curtainwall system, which reduces energy costs

Fitzsimons Innovation Community: The vision

- Largest and most ambitious research community of its kind in the Rocky Mountain Region
- Modeled after successful national medical research parks
- 184 acres total, with 125 acres of land ready for development
- More than 6 million square feet of corporate and bioresearch facility space being developed for companies focusing on the science and technology sectors
- Future vision as a fully integrated smart community designed for collaboration and innovation, with increased density, multimodal transportation and enhanced open space
- The \$55 million Bioscience 3 will open soon to house laboratories, research bays, open offices, office suites, and flexible warehouse and distribution space. Future plans include a Bioscience 4, 5 and 6.

Medical Center of Aurora

- One of the first hospitals in Colorado, and the only one in Aurora, to earn the prestigious five-star rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Hospital Compare program
- First community-based hospital in the metro area to attain the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Magnet designation for excellence in nursing services



Aurora is Attainable

In Aurora, from a first home to a forever home, we have a variety of housing options in suburban and urban neighborhoods. Walkable and dense developments with housing, shops, restaurants, offices and gathering spaces are making urban living next to transit a reality in Aurora.

Tackling the Affordable Housing Issue

Working with developers and the Aurora Housing Authority, the city's Community Development Division distributes federal funds to help create safe, decent and affordable housing.

The Aurora City Council has agreed to set aside \$1.1 million in 2019 and 2020 to provide start-up funding for affordable housing tools. The council is working with staff to identify tools and develop an affordable housing policy, which will be finalized and adopted in late 2019. Also this year, the Aurora Urban Renewal Authority allocated \$1 million to address affordable housing issues in the Fitzsimons Urban Renewal Area.

The city is conducting a housing study to identify a range of policy tools and programs to address housing needs in Aurora. The study will inventory existing city housing resources and programs, assess the city's housing needs, gather input from a wide range of stakeholders, and develop recommendations for City Council's review and consideration. Draft recommendations will be available in the fall.



New Affordable Housing Options Coming Soon

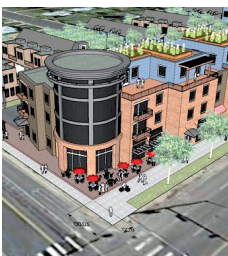
Village at Westerly Creek 3: Last June, the Aurora Housing Authority started renting units at the third phase of a decade-long affordable housing project, opening up another 24 units for seniors and 50 for families with incomes below 60% of the area median income. The entire complex now features 194 affordable rental units for low- and moderate-income renters.



Paris Family Apartments: The nonprofit Brothers Redevelopment Inc. broke ground on this \$12.9 million project in March, featuring 39 apartments with preferential consideration to families and veterans bringing in 50% or less of the area median income. The city of Aurora contributed the half-acre of land and \$2 million in federal money through the city's Community Development Division.



Alameda View Apartments: Across from the Aurora Municipal Center and adjacent to DeLaney Farm, this community will feature 116 apartments for families earning a mix of 30, 50 and 60% of area median income.



Peoria Crossing: In November, the Aurora Housing Authority broke ground on this 82-unit affordable housing complex at 3002 Peoria St. The \$24 million project will serve households earning between 30 and 60% of area median income, and 10 units will be reserved for formerly homeless veterans. City of Aurora HOME funds contributed to the project.



Veterans Renaissance Apartments at Fitzsimons: In 2018, the Colorado Department of Local Affairs broke ground on this complex that will serve homeless or at-risk homeless veterans.



Aurora is Pioneering

Aurora's nationally recognized water system continues to look forward as it meets the needs for a growing community.



A Leader in Regional Solutions

- **Prize Worthy:** Aurora is the only city in the nation to have three facilities with the Phase IV "Excellence in Water Treatment" designation from the Partnership for Safe Water. Only 18 treatment facilities in the nation are at the Phase IV level. And in 2017, Aurora Water won the prestigious US Water Prize from the US Water Alliance for our innovative work on Prairie Waters system and Aurora's leadership in the WISE Partnership.
- **A WISE Partnership:** Aurora provides the backbone for a regional partnership that helps communities south of Aurora to reduce their reliance on non-renewable groundwater. The WISE (Water Infrastructure and Supply Efficiency) Partnership is a collaborative effort among Aurora Water, Denver Water and the South Metro WISE Authority that uses Aurora's Prairie Waters system to deliver water to Douglas County entities when Aurora and Denver have additional capacity.

WISE provides Aurora Water with partners to help pay for the city's system, keeping water affordable for Aurora residents.

Innovation in Meeting Future Demands

- **Reuse:** Prairie Waters, the city's potable reuse system, is the state's largest. Since 95% of Aurora's water is fully reusable, Prairie Waters uses the city's existing water rights and reduces the need to acquire more water.
- **Buy in a New Way:** Aurora Water recently purchased water rights that were used by the London Gold Mine in Park County. This win-win-win scenario for Aurora, the environment and Colorado provides a large amount of reusable water for a growing municipal entity, using a resource that doesn't impact any river basin or any existing water rights. It also reduces or eliminates a potential for contamination by pumping the water around a mine tunnel that has been a source of contamination, thus improving the ecosystem and fishery.
- **Save:** Water conservation protects us from drought and helps meet future demands. Aurora Water's nationally recognized Water Conservation team saved over 160 million gallons of water in 2017. Residents are replacing bluegrass lawns with beautiful water-wise landscapes, providing low maintenance landscapes. Aurora Water provides free design services and generous rebates to support this. Visit AuroraWater.org to learn more.

Projects in Progress

- **Wild Horse Reservoir:** Located in Park County, Aurora's 13th and largest reservoir is in the design stage. Located upstream of Spinney Mountain Reservoir, this cost-effective and environmentally friendly project will be complete in the late-2020s. Follow the progress at WildHorseReservoir.org.
- **Flood Protection:** The Peoria-Fitzsimons Storm Water Outfall Project around the Anschutz Medical Campus is well underway to keep that portion of Aurora high and dry by aggressively improving the city's storm water system. When complete in 2021, this improvement will provide flood protection from the 100-year storm event to about 230 residences and 40 businesses. More information can be found at Fitz-Peoria.org.



Aurora is International

Aurora is a welcoming place, where a thriving immigrant and refugee population has established roots and created a community rich in culture, food and experiences. One in five Aurora residents were born outside the United States, and the city's integration and supportive efforts help them to flourish.

Office of International and Immigrant Affairs

- **Hosted more than a dozen international delegations** in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State, foreign governments and international organizations, including mayors, diplomats, city officials, business leaders and academics from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe.
- Celebrated the **first anniversary** of the Consulate of El Salvador in Aurora, the first diplomatic post in the city, with a series of business and cultural celebrations.
- Held **international events** like Walk in U.S., Talk on Japan and Colorado Consular Corps Reception.
- Organized the **Amalia Hernandez photographic exhibition** in collaboration with the Consulate of Mexico and the Global Fest Kickoff Celebration sponsored by the Consulate of Canada.



Making Global Connections

Fostering Integration

- Released the **Building Aurora's Future Together** progress report on important efforts and innovative programs.
- Won the **2018 City Livability Award** from the U.S. Conference of Mayors for initiatives toward the local immigrant and refugee communities.
- Recognized as part of the Health Powers Life campaign with the **2018 Communicator Award** by the U.S. Academy of Interactive & Visual Arts honoring excellence in marketing and communications.
- Launched the **Natural Leaders Youth Program** in partnership with the Village Exchange Center and expanded the number of ESL and citizenship classes in collaboration with local nonprofits and faith-based organizations.

Aurora Sister Cities International

- Hosted the of **2018 Sister Cities International Annual Conference**, bringing in 500+ people from 17 countries and generating about \$1 million in economic impact for Aurora.
- Sent 19 Aurora students and five Korean students to the **Sister Cities International Youth Leadership Summit**, all of whom received scholarships.
- Engaged 29 students through **Global Youth Leaders program**, a gap-year program for 13-15 year-olds that helps develop a set of five core global competencies to prepare them for a future in the global marketplace.
- Launched a **Japan Committee** to pursue efforts to engage a Japanese sister city in 2019 or 2020.
- Engaged **over 135 volunteers** in programmatic efforts.





Aurora is Active

With exciting things happening in Aurora, our city is a recreationist's paradise. Aurora boasts two reservoirs, five city owned golf courses, 97 developed parks, two spraygrounds, six recreation centers, three nature centers, plenty of trails and open space to explore, six outdoor pools, four indoor pools, a 27-field sports complex and much more.



Red-tailed Hawk Inclusive Playground

In partnership with the Make-a-Wish Foundation, Rotary Club of Aurora, Arapahoe County Open Spaces, city of Aurora Art in Public Places and the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department, this **8,000-square-foot site** will include a gathering space, sensory garden, play equipment, musical instruments and other features that provide opportunities for side-by-side play interaction for individuals of all abilities. **This project fulfills a wish from Ashaun**, a 7-year-old Aurora resident who expressed that he would love to see a fully-accessible playground where he and his friends could play together.



CENTRAL RECREATION CENTER

Now Open

- Aurora's first new recreation center in 40 years, funded with marijuana tax revenue.
- 61,000 square feet, two-story facility with state-of-the-art amenities including a lap pool, an indoor wave pool, a lazy river, an interactive water slide, an elevated indoor track, gymnasium, top-of-the-line fitness equipment, group exercise studios, teaching kitchens, party rooms, escape room, child watch, incredible views and more.
- Home to one of the most prominent installations of integrated art in a U.S. recreation center.

Another recreation center is coming

City Council approved the funding from marijuana sales tax revenues (around \$30 million) for the construction of a new recreation center near the Aurora Reservoir. Public input is taking place this summer and fall. Construction should begin in early 2020, with the center open to the public in early 2023.

The New Plains Center

The city's Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department is creating a new master plan for Plains Conservation Center.

- Free admission; open Wednesday-Sunday (program fees may apply)
- True-to-life homestead stretching across 1,100 acres of open space
- Welcome center, tipi camp and a village of sod buildings, including a blacksmith shop and one-room school house
- Hike along miles of rolling trails, with a chance to see pronghorn, coyotes, red-tailed hawks and resident bald eagles



Aurora is Artistic

Aurora's arts and culture community

provides many opportunities and benefits. Cultural landmarks, traditions and character define a city and bring public spaces to life. The arts contribute to the local economy, and offer a way to illustrate different viewpoints, see things through the eyes of others and inspire action.

Aurora Cultural Services:

What We Do Both public and private funds support the arts. The benefits of the arts cannot be fully realized without the contributions of government, which serves public interest and ensures the entire community benefits from the arts.

The city's Cultural Services

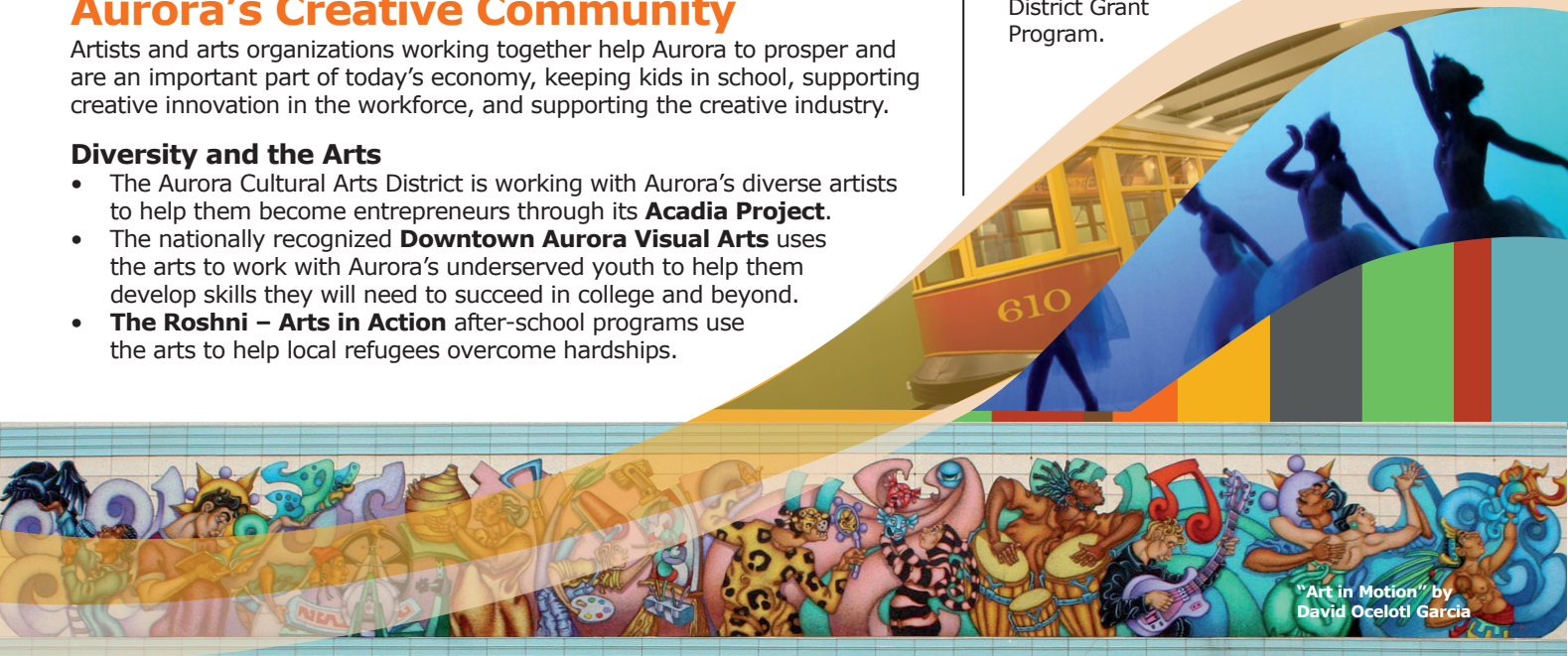
Division is the single largest provider of arts and cultural program in Aurora. Operations include the Aurora Fox Arts Center, the Aurora History Museum and Historic Preservation Office, Art in Public Places Programs, Aurora Dance Arts, Bicentennial Art Center, Aurora Rhythms Summer Concerts, the Education and Outreach Program and the Colfax Arts District Grant Program.

Aurora's Creative Community

Artists and arts organizations working together help Aurora to prosper and are an important part of today's economy, keeping kids in school, supporting creative innovation in the workforce, and supporting the creative industry.

Diversity and the Arts

- The Aurora Cultural Arts District is working with Aurora's diverse artists to help them become entrepreneurs through its **Acadia Project**.
- The nationally recognized **Downtown Aurora Visual Arts** uses the arts to work with Aurora's underserved youth to help them develop skills they will need to succeed in college and beyond.
- **The Roshni – Arts in Action** after-school programs use the arts to help local refugees overcome hardships.



Local Impact

- **Nonprofit arts organizations** like the award-winning Vintage Theatre, Aurora Symphony Orchestra, Aurora Singers and Nueva Escuela de Música create places for residents to perform, experience and learn about the arts.
- Groups like these form an **essential bridge** between artists and communities, facilitating public access to artists and to artworks.
- Cultural organizations **bring people** together and **revitalize neighborhoods**.



"Aspire" by David Griggs and Scott Parsons

New Art in Public Places

Public art contributes to a community's civic pride and sense of place. Find out more at AuroraGov.org/PublicArt

- **Nome Park:** "Lenticular Dreams" sculptures by Reven Marie Swanson (2018)
- **7/20 Memorial Garden:** "Ascentiate" sculpture by Douwe Blumberg (2018)
- **Fire Station No. 15:** "First Response" sculpture by John King (2019)
- **Fire Station No. 16:** "Renewal" sculpture by Christopher Weed (2019)
- **The People's Building:** "Art in Motion" mural by David Garcia (2019)
- **Central Recreation Center:** "Aspire" integrated art glass and sculpture by David Griggs and Scott Parsons (2019)



Aurora is Knowledge

You'll find an array of educational opportunities in Aurora, from world-class post-secondary education and research facilities—including the only place in Colorado to get a Doctor of Medicine degree—as well as access to great schools in five school districts.

Aurora Public Schools

- Opened a new Mrachek Middle School in 2018 and opening a new Science, Technology, Engineering and Math school from the award-winning Denver School of Science and Technology Public Schools, with a temporary facility accepting students in the fall at the Fitzsimons Innovation Community and a permanent facility planned to open in 2020
- Broke ground in partnership with Colorado State University-Global Campus to create a new headquarters for CSU-Global, a regionally accredited, online university designed for working adults; the school will offer scholarships and significantly discounted tuition rates to Aurora Public Schools students, and increase access to postsecondary opportunities for students, graduates and staff
- Colorado Association of School Executives named Superintendent Rico Munn the 2019 Colorado Superintendent of the Year, citing that graduation rates have climbed more than 15 percent and dropout rates have been cut in half under his leadership



Cherry Creek Schools

- Hired Superintendent Scott Siegfried in 2018
- Opened Altitude Elementary in Aurora in 2018, and is preparing to open an online high school this Fall that will serve between 200 and 250 full-time students, as well as some part-time students who are also taking traditional classes at their home high schools
- Four Cherry Creek high schools in Aurora among Niche's top 25 Denver-area public high schools



New Workplace-based School at Anschutz

Compositive Primary, a new 20,000-square-foot private school at 2345 N. Ursula St. serving students in preschool and early elementary grades, will open this fall as a workplace-based, year-round school, with enrollment preference given to children of parents working on the Anschutz Medical Campus.



STEM Institute of Science and Technology at the Overland-Prairie Campus
Computer Science & Applied Mathematics | Health Sciences | Engineering & Technical Sciences | Arts & Technical Communications

Higher Education Opportunities

- University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
- Pickens Technical College
- Community College of Aurora
- American Sentinel University
- Colorado Technical University
- Concorde Career College
- Platt College
- Pima Medical Institute

Aurora is served by five school districts:

- Adams-Arapahoe 28J (Aurora Public Schools)
- Cherry Creek 5J
- Douglas County RE1
- Bennett 29J (undeveloped land)
- Brighton 27J



Aurora is Well Managed

In 2018 WalletHub ranked Aurora the best run city in Colorado

based on the city's financial stability, education, health, safety, economy, infrastructure and pollution.

The annual ranking examines 150 of the largest U.S. cities to reveal which are managed best based on the quality of services offered measured against each city's per-capita budget.

The Core 4: Our Organization's Values



Integrity
Respect
Professionalism
Customer Service

Creating the City Budget

- The budget is a strategic tool for achieving the Aurora City Council's goals.
- Each city service funded in the 2019 budget is paired with a series of desired outcomes.
- A series of performance metrics measures progress toward achieving those outcomes to ensure the city is providing services in the most effective, efficient and equitable way possible.
- Efforts to pair services with performance metrics enables Aurora to be more transparent and focus on providing great customer service.
- Citizens are encouraged to attend annual budget town meetings and public hearings to inform the City Council about their issues and priorities during the budget process.
- The Citizens' Advisory Budget Committee meets monthly to learn about city operations, priorities and budget needs, and make its own recommendations to the City Council related to the budget (as do the Citizens' Advisory Committee on Housing and Community Development and the Citizens' Water Advisory Committee).



City Manager Initiatives

- **Management-identified Priorities**
 - Investment in Information Technology
 - Human Resources Enhancements
 - Aurora Key Places
 - Capital Improvement Planning
 - Strategic Approach
- **Improve Management System**
- **Employee Safety**
- **Business Transformation and Performance**
- **Revenue Diversification**

Economic Factors and City Revenues

3.2 Aurora's unemployment rate of **3.2%** in March 2019 was close to the state unemployment rate of 3% and **below the national unemployment rate of 3.9%**



Economic growth in Colorado is forecast to outperform the nation's, with current economic conditions supporting expectations of **continued economic growth into 2019.**



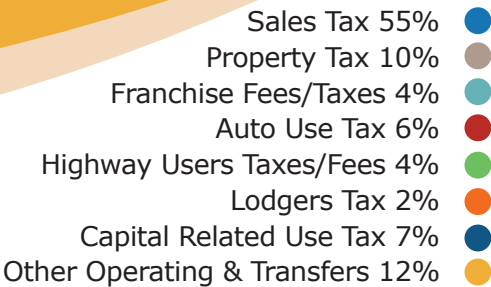
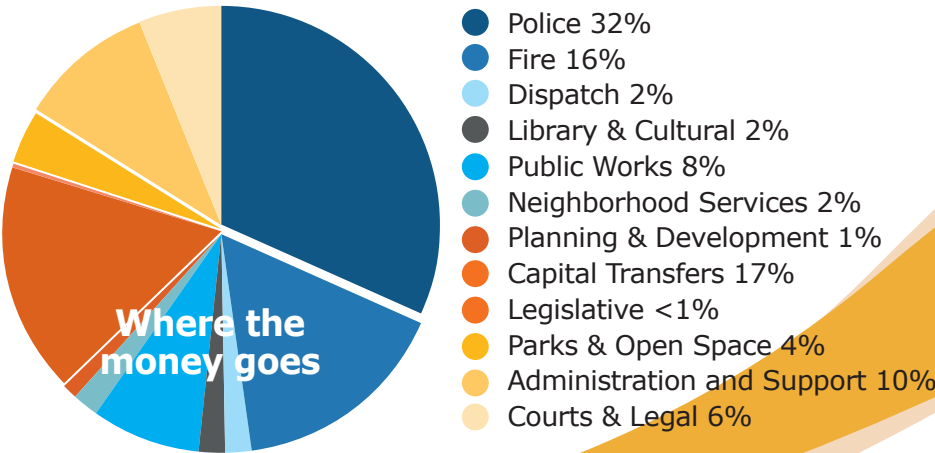
General Fund revenues have averaged **5.4% annual growth** over last three years.



Moderate General Fund revenue increases in 2018 will be followed by modest revenue increases in 2019 and 2020.

The city, by law, must balance its budget every year. The 2019 city budget, which totals \$359,581,607, provides a sound financial plan to provide the best possible municipal services. The budget was built with caution in mind, and with an eye toward the future.

Additions of \$10.9 million were made to the budget this year primarily in the form of ongoing support of the city’s Safe Community goal and some one-time funding toward the Excellent Infrastructure goal. No reductions occurred to balance the budget.



Tax Basics

- **Aurora’s Sales & Use Tax Rate:** 3.75%
(no increase in the last 26 years)
- **Who Else Gets Sales Tax:** State (2.9%); County (0.25 % for Arapahoe, 0.75% for Adams and 1% for Douglas); RTD (1%); and SCFD (0.1%)
- **30-year Low:** Aurora’s property tax rate of 8.605 mills continues to be the lowest that it’s been since 1988.
- **Other Beneficiaries:** Most of your property taxes go to school districts and the county.

Value for the Money

- **Some Average Monthly Household Costs:** \$147 cable and internet (in U.S.) and \$81 electricity (in Colorado)
- **Compare This:** Aurora households get city services like police, fire, snow removal, street repair, park maintenance, libraries for about \$92/month in sales and property taxes.

Long-range Budget Forecasting

- **A Look Ahead:** Economic growth in recent years has made it easy to balance the budget and avoid cuts. But that can change if economic conditions change and revenue decreases in the future.
- **What’s to Come:** The 2019 budget is balanced, and the 2020 budget is nearly balanced. Some one-time allocations can be reduced if needed to balance the budget, depending on economic conditions.



Aurora is Award Winning

2018/19 National Accolades for Aurora

SmartAsset



No. 1 Best City to Buy an Investment Property



No. 6 among Top 10 Rising Housing Markets



No. 7 among Top 10 Best Cities for Living the American Dream



No. 7 among Top 10 Best Cities to Sell a House

Redfin



No. 3 Hottest Housing Market in the Country

RewardExpert



No. 7 Safest Big City in the U.S.

WalletHub



No. 4 Best Real Estate Market (among large cities)



No. 7 Hardest Working Cities in America



No. 20 Best Real Estate Markets (out of 300)



No. 21 Best Large Cities to Start a Business



No. 22 Best Large Cities to Live In



No. 23 Best Park Systems in the United States

Trust for Public Land Park Score



Other Awards

- **US Water Alliance:** US Water Prize for Prairie Waters System
- **American Water Works Association Partnership for Safe Drinking Water:** Phase IV "Excellence in Water Treatment" Designation for Peter D. Binney Purification Facility
- **Colorado Business for the Arts Award:** RTD and the city of Aurora
- **National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors:** AuroraTV, First Place for Programming Excellence and Second Place for Best Overall Gov. Station
- **3CMA (City-County Communications and Marketing Association):** Savvy Awards for Aurora Worth Discovering Marketing Campaign Art and Aurora Fire Rescue Video

This year, the city's **award-winning AuroraTV** launched Aurora Now, a new weekly newscast with a new set and new format to give viewers a fresh experience in local news and information. AuroraNow can be viewed on Comcast cable channels 8 and 880, and at AuroraTV.org.

AuroraTV
AuroraTV.org

f [Facebook.com/AuroraGov](https://www.facebook.com/AuroraGov)

🏠 [NextDoor.com](https://www.NextDoor.com)

📷 [@auroragov](https://www.instagram.com/auroragov)

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