



Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Peggy Shivers...

Local resident, music legend, and philanthropist Peggy Shivers is our KCME volunteer of the month. As a member of KCME and Jazz 93.5's Community Advisory Board (CAB), Peggy Shivers represents the connection between the community and the station.

Throughout her life, Shivers has worked with many talented musicians, including Duke Ellington, a self-proclaimed highlight of her career. Of course, life is not without regrets. In an article published by *The Gazette*, Shivers revealed one of her biggest regrets. In college, she met world-renowned singer, Marian Anderson, who invited Shivers to perform at her annual recital and competition after Shivers graduated. While Shivers did finish her degree, she never followed through on Anderson's invitation.

Yet, those living in Colorado Springs can't help but be grateful for the direction Shivers' life took, as she and her late husband, Clarence Shivers, touched countless lives through their work as community members, both in the arts community and throughout Colorado Springs. Perhaps one of her greatest contributions was the establishment of The Shivers Fund at the Pikes Peak Library District in 1993. The fund went towards the establishment of a robust African American Historical and Cultural Collection at the library, as well as towards funding for events, concerts, and scholarships for young, aspiring artists.

In 2019, Shivers was recognized as the year's Unstoppable Woman for her "leadership, drive and ability to follow a passion despite difficulties that may arise." While Shivers remarked that she was shocked to be awarded the title, others in the community were not at all surprised. Mike Edmonds, acting Co-President of Colorado College, said of Shivers, "She is such an advocate for the power of the arts and how arts make the Pikes Peak region a better place to live." In addition, Chief Librarian and CEO John Spears remarked, "I'd place Peggy Shivers right up there with Fannie Mae Duncan. She brought that legacy into the 21st century." Yet Shivers perhaps said it best as simply, "When you live in a community it is up to you as a citizen of that community to do all you can to make that community the best place possible." And it is certainly true that Colorado Springs would not be the place it is today without the influence and vision of Peggy Shivers.

Information for this article was accessed from Gazette articles and this lovely [video](#) honoring Peggy Shivers.