

# Who are Ida & Laurie Bickley?

Ida and Laurie Bickley are a mother-daughter team of volunteers who devoted years of service to the Columbus Library in South Salt Lake. At 94 years old, Ida continues to be a fearless fighter for our community. She became a champion of the people when she rallied neighbors and friends at countless City Council and Planning Commission meetings to fight for their neighborhood in the plans for Granite High. She took a stand, spoke her mind, and received a standing ovation every time.



Ida was awarded Citizen of the Year in 2019 by Mayor Cherie for her activism and ability to bring people together, both in the Council meetings and at the local library. Prior to the library closing in November 2020, her daughter Laurie was at her side three times a week, helping brighten the patron's days as she and her mother organized the bookshelves and prepped for library events. Laurie has Down's syndrome and the pair's library service was a great activity for expressing their love for books and the City.

The naming of Ida & Laurie Bickley Park carries on a long tradition of respecting people with disabilities. It started fifty years before this commemoration, with the opening of [the Columbus School](#). At the

time, this school was one of the first places in the country to provide an enriching education to young people long shunned by traditional schools. Parents created the Columbus School with the sole intention of building a more inclusive world for children with developmental disabilities.

The Columbus School is still a part of South Salt Lake in its new location on West Temple, and the City converted the former school into [the Columbus Community Center](#), which houses a library, senior center and community center. In the spirit of welcoming every kid, the center recently became home to the Hser Ner Moo Center -- a Promise SSL afterschool program -- and the Best Buy Teen Tech Center, where kids can explore and create using state-of-the-art technology. Diversity, acceptance and friendship are priorities of this community hub and its new park. We are proud to claim Ida & Lauri Bickley as hometown heroes and our inspiration for Bickley Park!