

Aisha Renee  
Flag Description

### **Hue Man Experience: More Than A Bookstore**

I chose to honor the original Hue-Man Experience Bookstore, located at 911 Park Avenue West Denver, Co 80205. Some may find it hard to believe, but during the 1980's and 90's growing up in Denver as a black child was culturally nourishing in ways that continue to water me still. I can partially attribute my inquisitive nature and ability to visualize and create as a voice for Black Americans, to many Saturday mornings spent as an adolescent at Hue-Man Experience Bookstore. Joining my peers to commune while listening to children's books read aloud was tradition. Time spent at Hue-Man Experience Bookstore was so rich and beneficial to my entire being. This cultural epicenter was once a beacon and an anchor for our community. Being in community at Hue-Man Experience Bookstore fostered intellectual thinking and grounded us in knowledge of self. It was a place that felt like an extension of home with people who felt like extended family.

I thought it important to highlight such an institution, because as Denver grows and changes many people feel lost and disconnected to this ever changing landscape. Many of us seem to be struggling with feeling uprooted. What was once so familiar has become foreign territory. I want us to remember what we had as a black community, with the understanding that we have always taken up space in Denver.

It is not impossible to rebuild and take up space again.

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