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**UpDoNA**

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If you enjoy our newsletter every month, but haven't yet joined UpDoNA, please consider helping us in the very important work we do. There is power in numbers and the larger our membership, the more influence we have with our elected leaders. *Our tax-deductible annual membership is less than \$3.00 a month!* Be part of the solution. Please consider joining us.

[Become a Member of Our Community](#)

## President's Message: Lisa Pope

**Downtown Denver National Night Out** – Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 4:30-7:30 p.m., at Skyline Park 1 located on Arapahoe Street between 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Streets. Don't forget to attend this year's Downtown Denver National Night Out! Michael Spencer from CBS Colorado is this year's emcee. Our guests include Mayor Johnston, DPD Deputy Chief Sanchez, DFD Chief Fulton, newly appointed RTD Chief Martingano, Council Members Hinds and Watson, and many others.

**State of the City Address**: Gil Vondrasek, Jen Kellison, and I attended Mayor Johnston's State of the City address on Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at the Seawell Ballroom. Several hundred people were in attendance. During his address, Mayor Johnston spoke about Colorado's history, where we've been and where we are going. He emphasized some of the accomplishments in his first two years: reducing unsheltered homelessness by 45%, including getting 7,000 people off the streets, providing 1,000 units of transitional housing, and getting 5,000 people into permanent housing, hiring 300 new Denver police officers, a 46% decrease in homicides, largest reduction of any top 50 U.S. city, the new Denver Permitting office, etc.

**Click the button below to read all the latest on:**

- Strengthening Registered Neighborhood Organizations ("RNOs")
- Order UpDoNA Polo Shirts
- Colorado Convention Center numbers expected to surpass pre-pandemic levels
- Play a role in downtown's revitalization

[Read the Full President's Message](#)

UpDoNA Announcements





UpDoNA is once again partnering with LoDoNA and the Downtown Denver Partnership to bring you the third annual Downtown Denver National Night Out (DDNNO). This is an event that is intended to honor those who serve us including the Denver Police, RTD Transit Police, Denver Fire and all first responders. It is our opportunity to say thank you for all they do for us.

Our emcee this year will be Michael Spencer, evening news anchor for CBS Colorado. We have had Mayor Johnston participate in past years and we hope to see him there this year along with other special guests.

There will be free hot dogs, soda, popcorn and other treats. We will have music, door prizes, games, a photo booth, caricature artist, fire trucks and perhaps Bernie the mascot for the Colorado Avalanche. It has been a very successful event in past years. Come out and help us honor all of those that serve us in downtown Denver.

Tuesday, August 5, 2025 from 4:30PM to 7:30PM

Skyline Park between 15th & 16th Streets

<https://updona.org/downtown-denver-national-night-out-2025/>

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**OLIVE & FINCH**

The August UNO (UpDoNA Night Out) will be held on Wednesday, August 6, 2025. Stay as long as you want and have a great time with other members.

Date: Wednesday, August 6, 2025

Time: 5:30PM

Happy Hour: Enjoy Happy Hour prices until 6:30 PM

Venue: Olive & Finch

Location: 1000 14th Street (corner of 14th & Curtis)

Remember, UpDoNA now holds UNOs on the first Wednesday of each month. Put them on your calendar as a recurring event so you don't miss out!

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### **Welton Pocket Park**

The Welton Pocket Park is coming right along! Great collaboration between UpDoNA's Arts and Beautification Committee and Denver Parks and Rec!!





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### UpDoNA Board of Directors Election

Thank you to everyone that voted in the annual Board of Directors election. Three candidates were running for the two director positions in the UpDoNA Board of Directors. They were Jen Kellison, Terri McGinley and Lisa Pope. After the election was announced one director submitted a resignation, which left an additional position open. As a result, all three candidates will serve on the board effective immediately. Congratulations!

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### Help LoDoNA Reopen the Delgany Bridge

Our sister organization, the Lower Downtown Neighborhood Association is trying to reopen the Delgany Bridge. For more information or if you would like to help them, please go to <https://lodona.org/activate-delgany-bridge-committee/>



## Special Interest – UpDoNA News

**Contributed by:** Gil Vondrasek

### New Legislation Cracks Down On Derelict Buildings

On July 14, Denver's City Council unanimously amended Chapter 10 of the municipal code to confront roughly 300 derelict and neglected properties with far tougher penalties. Owners now face fines up to \$5,000 per day for each day of non-compliance—up from the previous \$999 maximum—marking the first major update to this ordinance since 2012.

Under the new rules, a derelict building is any unoccupied structure that inspectors deem unsafe, a chronic code violator or public nuisance, or that is more than a year behind on property taxes. The definition also embraces vacant lots.

[Read the Full Update Here](#)

## Safety Committee

**Contributed by:** Gil Vondrasek

### Partnering For A Safer Upper Downtown

At UpDoNA, our safety strategy centers on ongoing dialogue with Denver Police leadership. Each month, we participate in the District 6 Citizen's Advisory Group (CAG) to stay informed, share neighborhood concerns, and strengthen our partnership with law enforcement. In addition, we have monthly conversations with Lieutenant Albi regarding statistics and specific incidents; Ryan Ertman, head of security for the Downtown Denver Partnership; and Armando Saldate, head of Denver's Department of Safety, reporting to Mayor Johnston. Lisa Pope also serves on Denver's Police Advisory Board and meets with Police leadership.

[Read the Full Update Here](#)

## Arts & Beautification Committee

**Contributed By:** Sal Tripoda

### Mapping Upper Downtown Art Works

To take us to the next step in planning and implementing artworks and beautification projects in Upper Downtown, the Arts & Beautification Committee is inventorying Upper Downtown arts and flora. We have divided Upper Downtown into 22 blocks. Our first focus is on the arts. In our Arts Inventory, for each block, our committee volunteers are recording all of the present artwork that is publicly available. For each piece we provide a brief description of the piece, the materials used for the piece, approximately where it is located on the block, the artist (if it is determinable) and any other relevant information we think would be helpful. We also note the condition of the piece and if it is in disrepair. So far, we have completed eight blocks.

[Read the Full Update Here](#)

## Special Interest – UpDoNA News

**Contributed By:** Lisa Pope

### UpDoNA Accomplishments June 2024 - June 2025

This article provides a list of the accomplishments the UpDoNA Organization has completed between June 2024 and July 2025.

[Read the Full Update Here](#)

## New UpDoNA Buisness Member

**Contributed By:** Deborah Freidman

UpDoNa is happy to welcome **Mop Stars** as a new business member!

Mop Stars provides residential and commercial cleaning services in the Denver metro area and prides itself on its professional staff, flexible scheduling and customizable cleaning plans tailored to fit individual lifestyles, business requirements and budgets. Mop Stars is head quartered in downtown Denver and can be reached through its informative website, mopstars.com, or at 303.481.1976.

[Read the Full Update Here](#)

## New UpDoNA Buisness Member

**Contributed by:** Kathryn Olsen

UpDoNa is happy to welcome **Colorado Danceport** as a new business member!

UpDoNA is excited to announce that Colorado Dancesport has joined UpDoNA as a new business member as of May 2025. Colorado Dancesport (CDS) is the state's premier dance studio with numerous local and national Top Studio awards. They cater to a wide range of clientele: from the solo first-time dancer or engaged couple seeking help on their future wedding dance, to the social dancer looking to improve or the long-standing patron who competes. CDS has 16 dance instructors, all well-versed in a wide range of partner dances.

[Read the Full Update Here](#)

## Special Interest – UpDoNA News

**Contributed By:** Rob Squire

### West Saloon & Kitchen Did An Amazing Job At Our Annual Meeting

West Saloon & Kitchen is a family-owned restaurant, and an UpDoNA Business Member. They catered our Annual Meeting on June 24th, and they did an amazing job! The food was delicious as it always is when you eat there. We especially want to acknowledge the extra lengths they went to in an effort to be sure the event went smoothly.

[Read the Full Update Here](#)

## Business Member Offers & Announcements



**Purchase a Vehicle Service Contract (VSC)** online, and once the coverage is activated, Gasman Automotive Solutions will issue a **\$250 cash rebate** on top of our already ultra-competitive pricing. Get a [free quote](#). Call us at 303-362-1319



**Calling all Photographers!** Showcase your talent in Colorado Credit Union's Annual Photography Calendar contest. Submit photos July 1 – August 15, 2025. Visit [ccu.org/photo-contest](https://ccu.org/photo-contest) for more information.



Get a bottle of wine and a dessert to share with your date for only \$45 (show tickets not included). Email [host@dazzledenver.com](mailto:host@dazzledenver.com) to add the Date Night Package. [dazzledenver.com](https://dazzledenver.com)



Aloft Hotel is offering a discounted room rate for UpDoNA members of \$89 + tax pending availability during 2025.

[Book your room at Neighborhood Discounted Rate.](#) After choosing your preferred dates online, the website will let you know if the discounted rate is available for those dates.



Clocktower Cabaret is offering a \$10 discount on select performances for all UpDoNA members based on availability. Use code UPDONA10. Email questions to [selene@clocktowercabaret.com](mailto:selene@clocktowercabaret.com).



We at JARS Cannabis are offering 30% off your purchase for all UpDoNA members for 2025! Use code "UpDo" to enjoy 30% off your next purchase at checkout.

Occasionally we receive last-minute offers from Business Members for events that will occur prior to the next newsletter release. These will be posted as an event on our UpDoNA Facebook page. We encourage members to "Like" our Facebook page in order to be informed about these last minute events and other important announcements that are posted there.



Click on any of the images below for more information!



***\*\*\*UpDoNA has been approved and is now a 501c(3) organization! Your donations are tax-deductible and any donations made previously are tax-deductible retroactively to the date of UpDoNA's founding in 2021.\*\*\****

**Yes, I want to Donate to UpDoNA!**



#### Who We Are

UpDoNA is a city registered neighborhood organization formed to advocate for the interests of the residents and businesses in Upper Downtown Denver.

#### Our Vision

To have an Upper Downtown community that is and continues to be one of the most sought-after neighborhoods for residents, businesses and visitors.

#### Our Mission

To be a partner and advocate for the betterment of the Upper Downtown community and all those who live, work and play here!

#### [Clean Upper Downtown](#)

First Saturday of the month: August 2nd, at 9 AM

Venue: Lobby of Spire at 891 14th St.

Second Venue: 20th & Lincoln

#### [Downtown Denver National Night Out](#)

August 5th, 2025, 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Venue: Skyline Park 1

#### [UpDoNA August UNO](#)

August 6th, 2025 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Olive & Finch, 1000 14th Street (corner of 14th & Curtis)

#### [Denver Center for the Performing Arts](#)

August 1st - 31, 2025

Denver Performing Arts Complex

## [Denver Convention Center Events](#)

Entire Month of August 2025

Downtown Denver, CO

For more events, please click [here!](#)

For a complete list of concert and event schedules at the biggest venues around town, visit the following sites:

<https://www.ballarena.com/events-tickets/calendar/>

<https://www.empowerfieldatmilehigh.com/events>

<https://www.paramountdenver.com/event-calendar/>

<https://www.redrocksonline.com/>

<https://www.denvercenter.org/tickets-events/>

For a complete list of Events Around Town, visit [Denver.org](#)

## Volunteers Needed!

We need help to do our work. It takes volunteers to make a volunteer organization run. There are opportunities all over.

- Interested in making downtown life safer and more rewarding? Volunteer for the Safety and Quality of Life Committee
- How about helping to improve the lives of the homeless? Volunteer for UpDoNA Cares
- Would you like to help make our streets clean and attractive? Volunteer for our monthly Community Cleanups with our Clean Sustainable Denver Committee
- Have a writing skill? Write articles for our Website/Newsletter Committee
- Or would you rather help by increasing the influence of UpDoNA. There is power in numbers, and you can be a part of our Membership Committee
- Are you good at organizing? Help arrange social events as a part of our Social Committee
- Do you have a skill or interest in managing organizations? Consider running for our Board of Directors. We have an immediate opening and will be holding an election in April of this year.

We can only do our work with the help of people like you! Please consider offering your services to help us be a more effective and influential association. [Click here to get involved as a volunteer!](#) Every committee I mentioned can use help. Please – Get Involved.



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