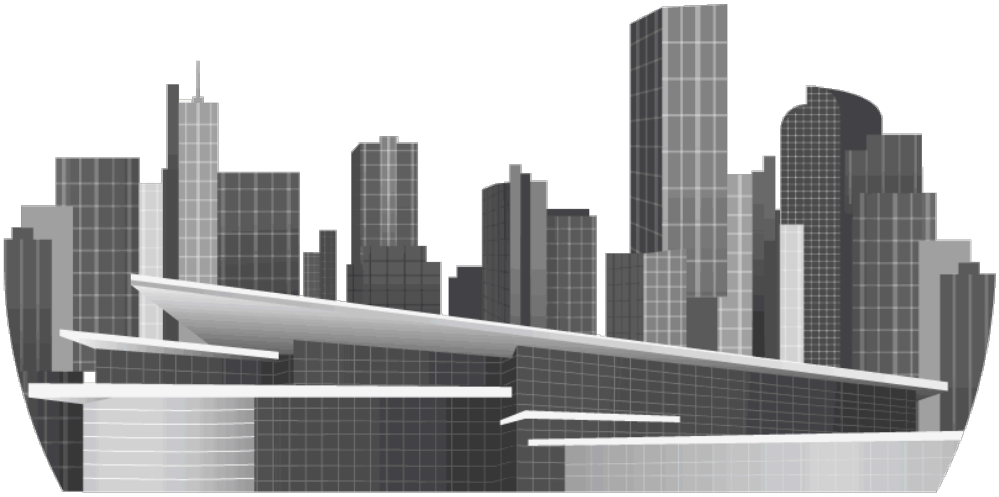


UpDoNA

NOVEMBER 2026 | UPPER DOWNTOWN DENVER

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Be part of Upper Downtown

UpDoNA brings residents and businesses together to advocate for a safer, more vibrant and connected neighborhood. Your membership and volunteer participation strengthen our collective voice.

Join, volunteer and stay connected with UpDoNA.

A New Month of Neighborhood News, Public Art, Community Advocacy, and Opportunities to Get Involved

President's Message: Lisa Pope

President's Message

November 2026

Once again, holiday time is upon us! However, before we get all "wrapped" up, let's take some time to do something that is here for us to enjoy all year long, like our wonderful museums. Denver Art Week begins on Saturday, November 7th and celebrates with Free Night at the Museum. On that night, several Denver Art Museums will have free admission and will stay open from 5:00-10:00 p.m. Make sure to spend time at these museums in our backyard - Denver Art Museum, Clyfford Still, CELL Learning Lab, The Kirkland, Museum of Contemporary Art, Museum for Black Girls, Colorado History Museum, Colorado Women's History Center, and others.

For those who can't wait for the holiday festivities to begin, you don't have long to wait. The Holiday Drone Show, the Christkindl Market, and the Mile High Tree begin on November 20th. Followed by the Holiday Lights on 16th Street, the City and County Building, and Union Station.

A Business Improvement District with a Twist Progressive Urban Management Associates ("PUMA") has been tasked with updating the Downtown Denver Partnership's Business Improvement District Strategic Plan which hasn't been updated in 44 years! Needless to say, it is outmoded – heavily based on land square footage, has 12 different assessment zones, 90% of services are focused on 16th Street, etc. Business Improvement Districts ("BIDs") are funded through taxes on commercial property owners. The Denver BID services include cleaning and maintenance, placemaking enhancements, safety, event and activations, and economic development.

In addition to updating the BID's strategic plan, PUMA is exploring the idea of overlaying a General Improvement District ("GID") on top of the BID. A GID is a special district that funds enhanced services within a defined area through property assessments. For example, there is a 14th Street GID that maintains landscaping, planters, and trees, trash receptacles, water and electric utilities, and maintains signs and major landmarks like the Big Blue Bear. Overlaying a GID onto the BID would enable commercial and residential property owners to collectively invest in the maintenance and improvement of all downtown, not just 16th Street. The GID would be managed by a board of those paying the assessments. The result would give residents the ability to determine how resources are spent.

A Steering Committee has been formed, and Roundtable discussions are ongoing. The next step is a BID/GID Open House on Tuesday, November 10th, from 4:00-7:00 p.m., at the Downtown Denver Partnership offices located on Arapahoe Street between 15th and 16th Streets. That will be your opportunity to learn more about the proposal, ask questions, and voice your opinion. Make sure you participate in the process!

The Next Era of Downtown Denver As I mentioned in last month's President's Message, Richard Florida, one of the world's leading urbanists was asked to complete an analysis of downtown Denver and its future. At a meeting held on October 15th with city and business leaders, Mr. Florida unveiled his analysis. (You can read his full report using this link: https://3bdb7a96-9ac1-49c3-addc-8585a16c36f7.usrfiles.com/ugd/ff2361_7c29d6cad9db45429486c5c506a35de6.pdf)

You probably remember the article in the Wall Street Journal written this past summer that called Denver the emptiest downtown in America. Mr. Florida disagrees with that depiction. After spending a year and a half walking 16th Street and spending time in other areas of downtown, he saw people walking and biking, eating at restaurants, attending sporting and cultural events, catching a DCPA performance, and more. Mr. Florida stated that office vacancy is the wrong measure. The real measure is downtown activity. Downtown is for people. Visitors, not office workers, are the engine of a downtown. And, the good news is that we are at 90% of pre-pandemic foot traffic.

We need to stop focusing on, and talking about, all the empty office space. Denver is more than that. It has one of the most educated work forces in the country, a great international airport, sports venues, one of the premier theatre districts in the country, an elite-ranked convention center, and it is the gateway to the Colorado Rocky Mountains. All of this gives Denver the opportunity to be one of the unique cities in America.

Do we have work to do? YES! However, we have an opportunity to reimagine the central business district - Upper Downtown - by adding more housing, new types of workplaces, exciting entertainment, and, as Mr. Florida stated "bring more of that distinctly Denver way of life into the heart of the city. Let's start focusing on how amazing Denver is and how lucky we are to live here!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving! I'll talk to you again in December!

Lisa L. Pope

President

Good Neighborhood Committee

Neighborhood Updates: Denver's New Entertainment Licensing Process

Although no new Good Neighborhood Agreements have been finalized in recent months, the UpDoNA Good Neighborhood Committee has been actively engaged with the Department of Denver Licensing and Consumer Protection (DLCP). Committee members have provided extensive feedback as DLCP works through significant changes to the city's entertainment licensing system.

On August 5, 2026, Mayor Mike Johnston signed Council Bill 26-0921—the most substantial overhaul of Denver's entertainment licensing regulations since the 1980s. The new framework, administered by DLCP, will take effect on April 1, 2027. The new entertainment licensing regulations replace the legacy Cabaret, Amusement Facility, and Dance Hall permit structure with three streamlined license types"

Key Changes to the Licensing Regulations include:

Three New License Categories

Limited Entertainment Business

Nightlife Entertainment Business

Adult Entertainment Business

Operating Hours

Limited Entertainment: operations prohibited from midnight to 7 a.m.

Nightlife & Adult Entertainment: operations prohibited from 2 a.m. to 7 a.m.

Security Requirements

Nightlife and Adult Entertainment businesses must submit security plans.

DLCP will establish video surveillance standards.

Record Keeping

All entertainment license holders must maintain mandatory records.

Public Hearings

Automatic hearings for new cabaret licenses have been repealed.

DLCP may schedule hearings for new entertainment, marijuana, and liquor licenses based on its rules.

Mandatory hearings will occur if:

The location has a violation within the past five years, or

The business premises exceed 10,000 sq. ft. for nightlife, adult entertainment, or cabaret licenses.

Regarding the mandatory hearing rules, both the UpDoNA and LoDoNA Good Neighborhood Committees met and strongly advocated for mandatory hearings in high density communities due to the concerns of crime that results after certain business operating hours.

Despite these efforts, DLCP ultimately declined to adopt this recommendation.

Additional New Liquor License Update

The UpDoNA Good Neighborhood Committee continues to support the liquor license application for The Flaming Grill (TGF) located at 891 14th Street. DLCP began the liquor license review for TGF on September 19, 2026.





Arts & Beautification Committee

SCOUTING FOR IDEAS

By Sal Tripodi

Chair, Arts & Beautification Committee

I had the good fortune to be part of this year's City Scouts program in Montreal. We were there for a whirlwind 2 days and I thought I'd share my takeaways. City Scouts is run by the Downtown Denver Partnership (DDP) and includes representatives from City Government, DDP, and the private sector. This year's program was focused on downtown activation and the arts, so it was a good fit for me, and instructive for the Arts & Beautification Committee.

Montreal, with a great deal of federal, province and city support, has been successful in the last several years in increasing downtown activation mostly through the arts. The focus on "cultural-focused economic drivers" resonated with the group (including me). It is a focus that our Committee is adopting as our motto to promote the arts in Upper Downtown.

Here are some takeaways from the trip:

• We had discussions with three Montreal firms: The Moment Factory, Tout Les Jours, and La Piscine. All of them were very involved with the evolution of Montreal’s downtown as a cultural, activity-driven, mecca. We saw examples of public art activations focused on the integration of lights and sounds. For example, there were lighted swings and benches that make sound as they are used, encouraging interaction between strangers utilizes them. Light installations on sidewalks, in plazas and on other flat surfaces produced sounds when the lights were stepped on, touched, or otherwise activated. Again, the focus was on bringing together strangers to interact and facilitate a sense of community while promoting fun and activity. As an aside, the Moment Factory is building a lighting activation for the Great Hall at Denver International Airport, which should be visible to the public sometime in 2027.

• I was taken by an initiative called “Co-Petitors” which seeks collaboration over competition by involving multiple firms to work on projects, seeing each other's involvement as collaborative rather than as competitive. We’ll keep that in mind as we explore new ideas for installation in Upper Downtown.

• Montreal has had built infrastructure available to festivals and other activations so that they can set up without having to bring in expensive electrical and support infrastructure. This also makes it easier to get festivals and other activations involving sound and electricity easier to approve.

• An interesting program that was discussed is called Strangers Need Strange Moments Together. This program focuses on ways to engage strangers (e.g., community, visitors, conventioneers) in interactive activity. The buzzwords for this initiative are

• Hello Stranger

• Infrastructure for the Human Spirit

• Gather

• Playing music or singing together can release endorphins that foster collaboration and community. Community spaces in Upper Downtown, such as Skyline Park, Independence Plaza, and Glenarm Plaza are possible places for experimentation in this area.

• Art can also bring value to onsite work environments. One of the presenters discussed its Innovation Lab on the Future of Work, asking the question “can immersive art promote well-being at work?” This initiative would rethink work environments and test ideas in real settings. I would like to this with some of our

businesses in Upper Downtown.

Possibilities for Downtown Denver

The Arts & Beautification Committee met recently to discuss what our near-term future should look like. In developing our strategic plan, we intend to use some of the above ideas. In the coming months, we will be focusing on what already exists in Upper Downtown, and how we can promote Upper Downtown as a place to enjoy art installations, as a separate destination from the Santa Fe Arts District, and the RiNo Arts District. In the near future, we will be launching an interactive map to guide the public in discovering the abundance of art works in Upper Downtown. More on that in early 2027!

We also will be expanding our Social media footprint with the help of volunteers. If you haven't already, please check out UpDoNArt on Instagram.

As always, we would love to have more volunteers. If you have an interest, please go to the UpDoNA volunteer page.

Where to Dispose of Lithium Batteries

By Gil Vondrasek

In the September UpDoNA Newsletter article, “The Denver Fire Department: A Quiet Giant Behind Denver’s Safety,” I shared Fire Chief Desmond Fulton’s assessment of the growing dangers posed by lithium-ion batteries. In brief, he emphasized that batteries used in e-bikes, scooters, and EVs present a rising fire risk nationwide. Damage, improper charging, or uncertified chargers can trigger “thermal runaway,” causing fires that burn extremely hot, spread rapidly, re-ignite multiple times, and are exceptionally difficult to extinguish. In high-rise buildings that are found in Upper Downtown, even a single battery failure inside a unit or storage area can escalate quickly - sometimes hot enough to damage concrete. Charging batteries in hallways is especially dangerous, as a fire can block escape routes.

What I did not include in that article was where residents can safely dispose of used lithium batteries.

A helpful resource is the website Safety From The Seat, which offers an online Battery Disposal Locator. The closest drop-off site to Upper Downtown is at:

Pedego Electric Bikes
929 Bannock Street (near Speer & Bannock)



Pedego Electric Bikes — drop-off store (photo provided with article)

Where to Dispose of Lithium Batteries · continued

If you use this disposal site, please let us know about your experience.

Thank you,

Gil

Gilvon2001@gmail.com

https://www.safetyfromtheseat.com/battery-disposal-locator



Lithium fire in home (image provided with article)

Community Events

November 7: Denver Art Week / Free Night at the Museum (as described in the President·s Message).

November 10: BID/GID Open House · 4:00·7:00 PM, Downtown Denver Partnership, 1515 Arapahoe St.

December 1 | Tip to Toe | 4:00·7:00 PM

1435 Curtis Street, K1. Come for wine and snacks to socialize. Bring a friend!

Who We Are / Vision / Mission

UpDoNA is a city-registered neighborhood organization formed to advocate for the interests of 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!

Volunteers Needed!

Join a committee, help with neighborhood cleanups, contribute articles, support arts and beautification, organize social gatherings, or help grow membership. UpDoNA·s work depends on community volunteers.

Upper Downtown Neighborhood Association | 1312 17th St #1293 | Denver, CO 80202

Community Events | Downtown Priorities



Help Shape Downtown Denver's Future

Open House: Tuesday, November 10, 2026 | 4:00–7:00 PM

Downtown Denver Partnership, 1515 Arapahoe Street, Suite 100

Drop in to share your priorities and learn about proposed special districts.

Downtown Denver Experience and Districts Survey: open through November 20.

Survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/downtowndenverdistricts

Additional survey information is expected soon.

Contact: Naomi Lacewell | Senior Associate

Progressive Urban Management Associates | 303.736.2193

naomi@pumaworldhq.com | pumaworldhq.com

Earlier roundtables: LoDo Oct. 22 and Nov. 4; Upper Downtown Oct. 27.

UpDoNA | Community Information





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

UpDoNA | Community Information

Yes, I want to Donate to UpDoNA!



UpDoNA

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UpDoNA | Community Information

Clean Upper Downtown

First Saturday of the month: November 7, 2026, at 9:00 AM

Venue: Lobby of Spire, 891 14th St.

Second venue: 20th & Lincoln

November UNO - UpDoNA Night Out

Wednesday, November 4, 2026 (first Wednesday of the month)

Venue, time, and RSVP details: To be confirmed for November

Colorado Convention Center

November 2026 - see venue calendar for current events

Denver, Colorado

Buell Theater

November 2026 - see venue calendar for current performances

Denver Performing Arts Complex

For more events, visit the following calendars:

ballarena.com/events-tickets/calendar/

empowerfieldatmilehigh.com/events

paramountdenver.com/event-calendar/

redrocksonline.com

denvercenter.org/tickets-events/

For events around town, visit Denver.org

November dates updated; please confirm event-specific details before publication.

UpDoNA Business Members

