



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

Newsletter

Vol. 46, No. 24, December 4, 2020

Downtown Colorado, Inc. announces municipal, individual award winners

Downtown Colorado, Inc., is pleased to announce the winners of the 2020 Governor's Awards for Downtown Excellence! Since 2003, the Governor's Awards for Downtown Excellence have recognized outstanding projects and people in Colorado that demonstrate creativity in the face of challenges, unlikely and enduring partnerships, and dedication to community to further downtown initiatives.

"During the 2020 pandemic, the Governor's Awards for Downtown Excellence provide a needed chance to remember the champions and innovators who are keeping our commercial districts and small businesses alive," said Katherine Correll, executive director of Downtown Colorado, Inc. "The Governor's Awards celebrate the amazing projects and people that are committed to economic and community revitalization in Colorado."

The 2020 Governor's Awards for Downtown Excellence winners are:

Best of partnership

- Ready to Work Program in the City of Boulder
- Durango Renewal Partnership from the City of Durango

Partnership for events

- Englewood Block Party from the City of Englewood
- 2019 SOCO Tourism Summit as presented by the Cities of La Junta, Walsenburg, and Trinidad

Best of place:

- Greeley Art Alley from the City of Greeley
- Glenwood Springs 7th Street Enhancement Project from the City of Glenwood Springs

Best of planning:

- Loveland Downtown Design Standards from the City of Loveland
- Alamosa Downtown Design Plan from the City of Alamosa

Projects with adaptation:

- Poudre Garage in the City of Fort Collins
- The Windsor Mill from the Town of Windsor

Projects with new Building:

- The Foundry in the City of Loveland

Downtowner of the Year

The Vicki Mattox Downtowner of the Year Awards recognize individuals who have shown exemplary commitment to their local downtown and community. Nominees encourage ongoing collaboration and teamwork benefitting the community.

Steve Art, City of Wheat Ridge — Art is the economic development manager for the City of Wheat Ridge and the executive director of the city's Urban Renewal Authority. He promotes intelligent growth for the community while promoting the values of Wheat Ridge and has been with the city for over eight years. Art has helped Wheat Ridge to see unprecedented City growth with the development of new housing options, shopping centers, and the creation of a new downtown along 38th Avenue. Art has served as DCI's board president for three years and has helped shape a stronger and more sustainable organization.

Marian Hollingsworth, Town of Lake City — Hollingsworth has been a driving factor in the Lake City Main Street Program, Lake City DIRT, which continues to transform Lake City. In their remote setting, with a limited population, they have been able to find success by following and implementing the Main Street approach. Hollingsworth is the heart of Lake City DIRT and epitomizes what a Main Street volunteer and board member should do.

Rick Kron, City of Louisville — Kron has served on the DCI Board of Directors for over 15 years. He also worked for Spencer Fane and helped residents, landowners, and developers organize, manage, and finance special districts, business improvement districts, and

intergovernmental authorities so they can build, maintain and operate public facilities, programs, and services. Rick is the author of DCI's "The Amazing Colorado BID (Business Improvement District) Board Member Manual," which was released on the Downtown Colorado, Inc. website in mid-June 2015, and the Astounding Downtown Development Authority Board Manual! Kron has worked with too many Colorado communities to name. His home downtown is in Louisville where he has diligently served on the downtown association board and assisted, with some of the impressive events and innovations such as the Louisville Street Fair.

Judy Ann Files, City of Montrose — Due to Files's advocacy and drive, downtown Montrose looks and feels like a different place than it did prior to her service. Files has supported two major building rehabilitations, upgrades to downtown's Centennial Plaza, multiple downtown events, and active engagement with business owners. She specifically advocated for putting the historic Hartman family clock back on display and personally worked with the family and DART to reactivate the historic relic into downtown from where it had been sitting in storage.

Each year the Governor's Awards for Downtown Excellence serve as a highlight for DCI's IN THE GAME Vibrant Downtown Event, an annual conference for downtown champions, resources, and stewards.

Nominations for the 2021 Governor's Awards for Downtown Excellence are now open.

The nomination fee is \$100 and all nominations need to be submitted with one to five photos by Friday, **Feb. 25, 2021** at 5 p.m using the Person - Vicki Mattox Downtowner of the Year form and/or the 2021 Governor's Awards Nomination form.

Empowered cities and towns, united for a strong Colorado

In memory

CML and the City of Aurora lost a good friend and longtime public servant with the passing of Peggy Kerns on Saturday, Nov. 14.

Kerns served on the Aurora City Council from 1983-1988 and represented the municipality and her district in the Colorado State House of Representatives from 1989-1997. During her final term, she was elected House Minority Leader. Following her distinguished career in public service, Kerns became the first director of the Center for Ethics in Government at the National Conference of State Legislatures, and over 15 years, built it into one of the most respected ethics training programs in the country. Kerns will be deeply missed by the countless CML members across Colorado.

DOLA coordinating COVID-19 regional resiliency and recovery roadmaps

COVID-19 represents one of the greatest disruptions of our lifetimes, requiring our communities to partner across jurisdictional boundaries in order to effectively respond to change and elevate community assets to solve shared problems. With this challenge in mind, the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Resiliency Office is offering communities an opportunity to work together to support diversifying and strengthening their economies while building their region's resiliency.

DOLA is now accepting Letters of Intent (LOIs) from eligible rural communities interested in receiving technical assistance to develop a

"Rural Colorado COVID-19 Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan" ("Recovery Roadmap" for short). The objective of the LOI is to encourage and jumpstart the formation of informal Regional Community Teams before the request for a formal application.

The opportunity, including eligibility and selection criteria, is detailed in DOLA's call for LOIs (bit.ly/3leW1NB). If interested, the Resiliency Office is encouraging you to watch their webcast at bit.ly/2Jlq20I for more information. DOLA is also providing ongoing updates to their Frequently Asked Questions at bit.ly/2KYHN7h.

Applications now being accepted for WaterNow Colorado's Project Accelerator



Hands-on support to
accelerate your
sustainable water program



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Subscription to CML Newsletter is offered as a portion of member dues. Cost to nonmembers is \$300 a year.

Get this newsletter by email. The CML Newsletter is available by email three days before it arrives in the mail! Sign up at bit.ly/CMLNewsletter.

Are you working to design, fund, or launch an innovative water program? WaterNow is pleased to announce that the Fall 2020 application cycle for Project Accelerator is open! Project Accelerator offers cities, water agencies, and other organizations the opportunity to jumpstart a sustainable water project. They provide free, high-value capacity and expertise that helps make meaningful progress toward more affordable, community-oriented solutions. Selected projects receive:

- Tailored support for your program, which may include policy guidance, research and

analysis, program design, and training and education

- Access to a broad network of water sector experts in program development and innovative financing
- Up to 250 hours of assistance over an approximately 6 month period (valued at \$25,000)

Learn more and apply now at bit.ly/39mqXJB to receive support. Applications are due by **Dec. 14, 2020**.

Colorado Departments of Local Affairs, Human Services, Healthcare Policy and Financing release Statewide Homelessness Playbook

A new collaborative state publication introduces a framework of guiding principles, key goals, and solutions for communities across Colorado to reduce – and ultimately eradicate – homelessness.

Making Homelessness History in Colorado, led by the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Office of Homeless Initiatives (OHI), in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) and Colorado Department of Healthcare Policy and Financing (HCPF), asserts that housing is foundational to people's safety, health and wellbeing. The guide's premise asserts that while the state is not able to prevent housing crises entirely, it can build systems to address them quickly and efficiently when they occur.

"This playbook is a revitalization of OHI goals and actions to more strategically address the homelessness issues facing our state," said Rick M. Garcia, DOLA executive director.

"It deliberately aligns us with other state agencies all working together to make homelessness history."

The guiding principles of the playbook are agreeing on a shared goal, working from a complete picture of who needs support, investing in what works, making solutions equitable, and understanding that homelessness ends with a person being in a home.

"Supporting Coloradans at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness is foundational work of human services across the state. Safe, stable housing is critical to helping folks work through behavioral health issues, care for their children, or find employment to move out of poverty," said Michelle Barnes, CDHS executive director.

Solutions the guide offers include providing affordable rental housing, access to

supportive services, more opportunities for homeownership, shelters without restrictive requirements, street outreach programs, rapid re-housing programs, and more.

"Addressing homelessness is critical to improving one's health and wellbeing," said Kim Bimestefer, HCPF executive director.

"We are honored to work with this coalition to make homelessness history."

The full publication is available at bit.ly/3nU0Yxf.

The Office of Homeless Initiatives in DOLA's Division of Housing works with local, state, and federal stakeholders to build, promote, and support collaborative approaches that reduce and prevent instances of homelessness, and ensure that every Coloradan has a safe place to call home. For more information, visit bit.ly/3laJafz.

Colorado Department of Local Affairs awards \$793K in rural economic development grants

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) awarded \$793,000 to 15 local governments across the state for projects that support economic resilience and diversification, and job creation and retention.

Recipients include Craig and Hayden in northwest Colorado, two communities that face major challenges preparing for the closure of nearby coal mines and coal-fired power plants over the next decade. The intention is to lay a foundation for a sustainable local and regional economic future.

Funding from the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) program helps counties with less than 50,000 people and communities with fewer than 25,000 people diversify their economy with local projects.

Applications must contain plans to create and retain jobs – directly or indirectly – build capacity, create economic resiliency, or support entrepreneurial ecosystems.

"REDI grant projects exemplify the wide variety of strategies from local governments across the state working hard to stimulate their economies," said Rick M. Garcia, DOLA executive director.

Awards include \$150,000 to the Town of Hayden for a co-working space to provide education, training, and stimulation of entrepreneurship to area workers within existing and future businesses.

DOLA also awarded the City of Craig \$124,000 to hire an economic priorities coordinator to enhance Craig's economic development capacity and lead implementation of regional workforces, housing, transit, business attraction, expansion, and retention. This position will lead implementation of the city's highest priorities.

"The DOLA REDI program is more critical than ever, not only because it helps local

communities that are working to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, but because it helps communities prepare for future transitions on their own terms," said Wade Buchanan, director of the Colorado Office of Just Transition.

The department awarded the City of Durango \$53,000 for the launch of the Rural Resiliency and Recruitment program, which consists of the 2021 Southwest Colorado Accelerator Program for Entrepreneurs (SCAPE) and 2021 La Plata County Economic Alliance recruitment effort. These programs bring job creation and economic diversity to the area. The projects build on La Plata County's Resiliency Framework, a planning process completed with the Colorado Resiliency Office within DOLA.

To learn more about the REDI grant program, go to bit.ly/3o0N8Jo.



2021 All-America City Awards

Building Equitable and Resilient Communities

Applications for the 2021 All-America City Awards are now being accepted and are due 2/10/21.



Applicants will be asked to discuss the strength of their civic capital and to provide examples of community-driven projects that have adapted and transformed the community to be more equitable and resilient.

Join these All-America Cities from Colorado!

Aurora (2008)

Brush (2014)

Colorado Springs (1981)

Colorado Springs (Hillside)
(1997)

Delta (1992)

Fountain (2002)

Grand Junction (1962)

Greeley (1989)

Lakewood (2011, 2016)

Lamar (1959)

Leadville (1958)

Longmont (2006, 2018)

Montrose (2013)

Pueblo (1954)

Wray (1993)

Learn more: www.nationalcivicleague.org/america-city-award/

Research corner: Colorado reaches Census Bureau threshold for response

According to the State Demography Office within the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, by the end of the Census data collection period on Oct. 15, 2020, Colorado had reached the Census Bureau’s threshold for complete housing enumeration (99.9%), with a self-response rate of 70.0%. Colorado’s final self-response rate was 3 percentage points greater than the national rate, and 7.3 percentage points greater than the state’s 2010 self-response rate of 62.7%.

Self-response rates varied across the state. Among municipalities, the self-response rate ranged between 10% and 92%. Total cumulative response rates by county are shared below.

Total Census Response Rate by County

Hinsdale County	18.80%	Cheyenne County	50.20%	Morgan County	66.10%
Mineral County	24.90%	Ouray County	50.70%	Pueblo County	66.70%
San Juan County	28.10%	Rio Grande County	51.20%	Garfield County	66.80%
Summit County	28.40%	Las Animas County	52.60%	Fremont County	66.90%
Costilla County	28.50%	Kiowa County	54.10%	Delta County	66.90%
Grand County	29.60%	Gilpin County	54.30%	Phillips County	68.10%
Jackson County	32.90%	Teller County	55.30%	Montrose County	69.00%
San Miguel County	33.80%	Lincoln County	55.80%	Logan County	69.30%
Park County	33.90%	Prowers County	56.00%	Denver County	69.30%
Eagle County	38.60%	Alamosa County	56.10%	Weld County	70.50%
Custer County	39.10%	Chaffee County	58.30%	Larimer County	70.70%
Gunnison County	39.30%	Bent County	58.80%	Adams County	72.00%
Pitkin County	39.70%	Clear Creek County	59.00%	Mesa County	73.50%
Saguache County	40.90%	Sedgwick County	59.60%	El Paso County	74.50%
Huerfano County	42.10%	Moffat County	59.60%	Elbert County	75.40%
Archuleta County	43.30%	Kit Carson County	59.80%	Arapahoe County	76.30%
Dolores County	43.40%	Crowley County	59.90%	Boulder County	77.00%
Conejos County	44.20%	Washington County	60.00%	Broomfield County	77.20%
Routt County	44.50%	La Plata County	60.20%	Jefferson County	80.10%
Rio Blanco County	47.20%	Otero County	62.60%	Douglas County	81.50%
Lake County	49.30%	Montezuma County	63.50%		
Baca County	50.20%	Yuma County	65.50%		



Source: State Demography Office bit.ly/36tbsxq



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Featured in this issue:

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