



Servant Leadership



John Gardocki





My Vision



- Giving back to my community
- Acquiring servant leadership skills
- Helping grow local food for Denver
- Growing my community --> Combating loneliness





Tactics

01

Spark the Change

Take a class about servant leadership and meet with mentors who have board experience

02

Coffee Chats

Meet with DUG staff and volunteers to determine the best fit for me within the organization

03

Volunteering

Help prep the sites and get my hands dirty!



Timeline



November '24 -February '25

Servant Leadership
Skill Aquisition



February '25 - April '25

Meeting with DUG
Staff and
Volunteering



April '25 - Summer 2025

Apply for Board
Membership or
Continue
Volunteering



Goals

01

Grow Leadership Skills

BEST LEADER!

03

Apply for Board



02

Volunteer



04

Make an Impact for Denver





Why not Xeriscape??



For the pollinators!

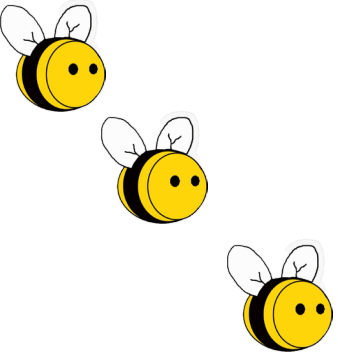
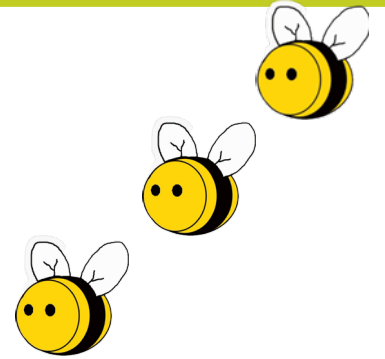
Presented by:
Cathi Wielgus

October 22, 2024

Is it “Xeriscape” or “Zeroscape?”



NANCY LEAVITT, AN ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER WITH DENVER WATER, COINED THE TERM *XERISCAPE* IN 1981 BY COMBINING *LANDSCAPE* WITH THE GREEK PREFIX *XERO-*, MEANING 'DRY'.



THE TERM *ZEROSCAPING* IS SOMETIMES SUBSTITUTED FOR *XERISCAPING*. *ZEROSCAPING* USUALLY REFERS TO A DIFFERENT TYPE OF LOW-WATER LANDSCAPING THAT USES VERY FEW PLANTS OR NONE AT ALL.

WIKIPEDIA



Why should you xeriscape or zeroscape?

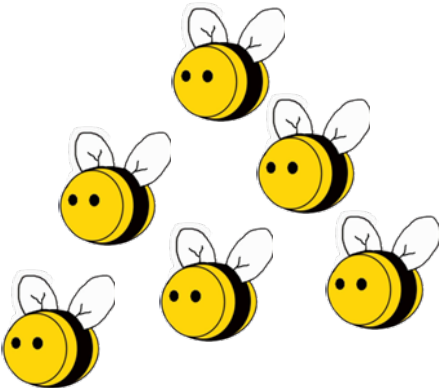


55% OF RESIDENTIAL WATER USE ON THE FRONT RANGE IS USED OUTDOORS, MOSTLY ON LAWNS

RESOURCECENTRAL.ORG



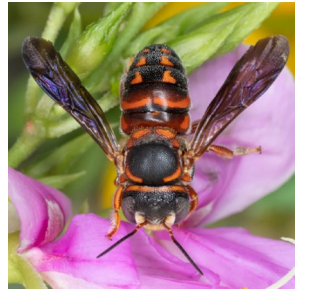
ZEROSCAPE HELPS SOLVE THIS PROBLEM BUT DOESN'T PROVIDE HABITAT FOR POLLINATORS!



Why should you xeriscape rather than zeroscape?



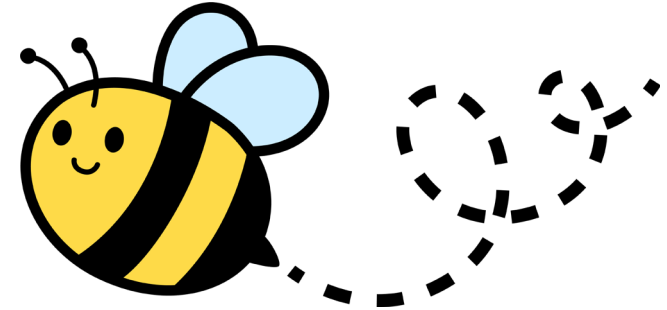
- USE AT LEAST 50% LESS WATER THAN A LAWN
- RETAIN SOIL FROM EROSION
- SUPPORT THE INSECTS!
- HONEYBEES ARE GREAT BUT...
 - NATIVE BEES ARE TWO TO THREE TIMES BETTER POLLINATORS THAN HONEYBEES
 - CORNELL.EDU
 - COLORADO IS HOME TO AROUND 1,000 SPECIES OF NATIVE BEES, AND MORE THAN HALF OF THESE ARE FOUND IN BOULDER COUNTY
 - BUTTERFLIES, MOTHS, BEETLES, WASPS, AND FLIES ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT AS POLLINATORS, AND ARE OFTEN OVERLOOKED
 - BOULDERCOLORADO.GOV



Xeriscape supports pollinators!

THE TOP THREE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO SUPPORT POLLINATORS:

- GROW NATIVE PLANTS AND FLOWERS
 - PROVIDE AREAS FOR NESTING AND OVERWINTERING, INCLUDING LEAF LITTER, FLOWER STEMS BARE SOIL
 - AVOID PESTICIDES, HERBICIDES AND FUNGICIDES
- COOLBOULDER.ORG

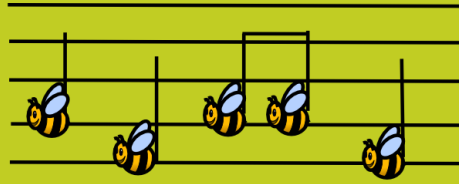


XERISCAPE ACTION PLAN



TASK	TIMEFRAME	ASSISTANCE	COST
Research existing programs in city of Boulder	12/2024	-	\$0
Yard plan	3/2025	Landscape architect or designer	\$500
Order gardens in a box, other plants and seeds	3/2025	-	\$300
Talk to neighbors with existing pollinator certification--network and make friends!	6/2025	-	\$0
Hardscape improvements	6/2025	Landscape crew	\$2200
Receive and plant gardens in a box	6/2025	Kids	\$0
Get certified--display signs--promote program	8/2025	-	\$0?
Volunteer with pollinator/plant organization	8/2025	-	\$0?
Repeat for years	???	-	\$300/year
COSTS:			\$3000 year one \$300 ongoing

Things are getting musical...



*“Xeric Plants will grow, in Colorado sunshine
With very little rain fall
They make a home, for native insects
And hold the soil from erosion...”*



*“Buzzing in the flowers
Where there are no pesticides
Nor herbicides!”*



*“If you have a yard, plant native species
They grow like weeds and feed the soil
And if you dare, throw guerilla seed bombs
Let there be bees to fill the air!”*



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So much information is out there!

[COOLBOULDER.ORG](https://coolboulder.org)

[BOULDERCOLORADO.GOV/SERVICES/POLLINATOR-GARDENS-AND-PATHWAYS](https://bouldercolorado.gov/services/pollinator-gardens-and-pathways)

[BLOG.NATURE.ORG](https://blog.nature.org)

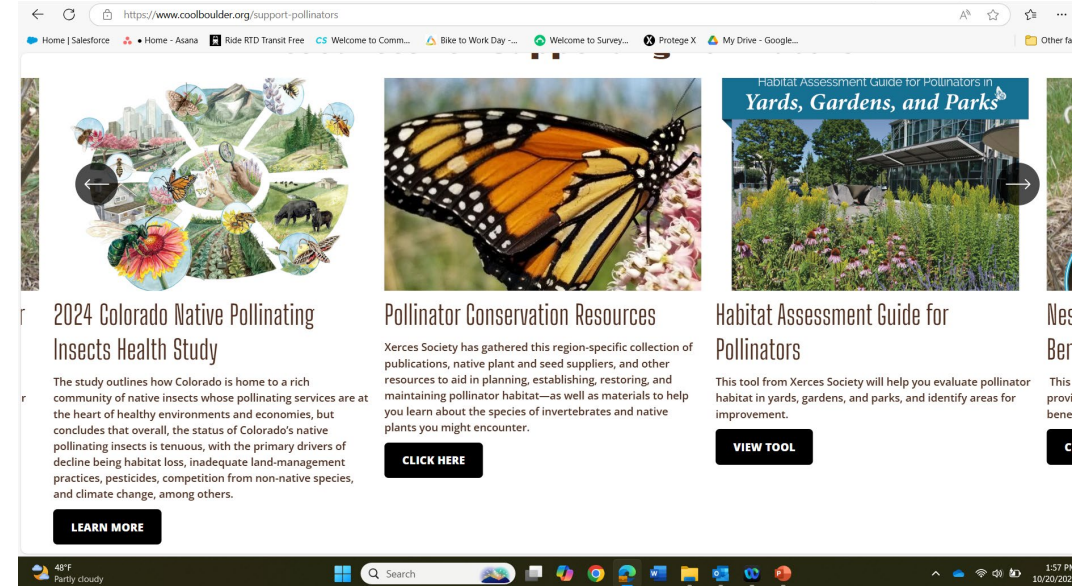
[PEOPLEANDPOLLINATORS.ORG](https://peopleandpollinators.org)

[COLORADOPOLLINATOR.NETWORK](https://coloradopollinator.network)

[HTTPS://CONPS.ORG/](https://conps.org/)

[FARMINGBASE.COM](https://farmingbase.com)

[COLORADONATIVEBEE.COM](https://coloradonativebee.com)







Are you READY...



For an Emergency?

EVENTS

Events in the Denver Metro area within the last 20 years

Boulder Marshall Fire

Date: December 30, 2021

Size: 6,219

Damage: Over \$2B in losses

Homes destroyed: 1,000+

Casualties: 2 people, 8 burned

Business destroyed: 7

Tornadoes/Hailstorms/Flooding

26 tornadoes since 1995 (last one in 2022) and one in Lonetree 2023

42 Hailstorms in 2024 in Denver (last one May 2024)

Flooding in the Denver Metro area was in 2003

Bomb Cyclone (Denver Metro Area)

Date: March 13, 2019

Affected Area:

Wind gusts 60 – 80 mph

Snowfall: 7.1" at DEN

All major highways closed outside Denver

Nearly 1400 airline flights at DEN were cancelled (5000 passengers stranded at airport)



PREPARE

There are resources and information out there. Be PREPARED

Connect with Office of Emergency Management

Information for the community
preparedness programs,
dedicated to help residents and
businesses mitigate the impact
of disasters

www.denvergov.org/oem

Don't wait until an emergency

FEMA has information to help
you prepare for, respond to, and
recover from disasters specific to
Region 8.

<https://dhsem.colorado.gov/>



DON'T WAIT

Don't wait until it happens, be prepared.

Let me send you information or contact me,
Ken.Arellano@denvergov.org



“There’s no harm in hoping for the best as long as you’re prepared for the worst.”

—Stephen King



Denver Regional Resource Bank

A hub of valuable community information and support.

Presented by:
Danielle Urban

October 22, 2024



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Where do you go to find resources?





Denver Regional Resource Bank

- Explore a continually expanding list of valuable community resources
- Share your resources to contribute to our growing bank





Build the Denver Regional Resource Bank

- **Raise awareness** of vital community resources
- **Follow, share, and like** valuable information and support



@DENVER_REGIONAL_RESOURCE_BANK



Everyone Feasts with Education First

Bonding a global company
and a local community
through food production

Derek Billey

October 22, 2024

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Hunger in Colorado

11%

of Coloradans lack reliable access to nutritious food

Colorado Health Institute, 2023 Colorado Health Access Survey, February 2024

17%

of Colorado households with children where children are not eating enough because food was unaffordable

U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, Oct 2022

7.7%

of older adults live below the poverty line in Colorado, making them at higher risk for food insecurity

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Colorado Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program fact sheet, Feb. 2023

9.4%

of Coloradans struggle financially, living below the federal poverty line

U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey: Poverty, September 2023



Everyone Feasts with EF, pt. 1

FRESH PRODUCE DONATIONS



Fresh Produce Donations – Strategy and Timeline

- Existing interest
 - Capacity for donations established
 - Mission-driven, passionate workforce
- Month 1: establish relationship with food recovery organizations
 - Denver Food Rescue
 - Fresh Food Connect
- Month 2: design program for food collection
 - Green Team
 - Office Management
- Month 3 and beyond: promote, collect donations, maintain relationships

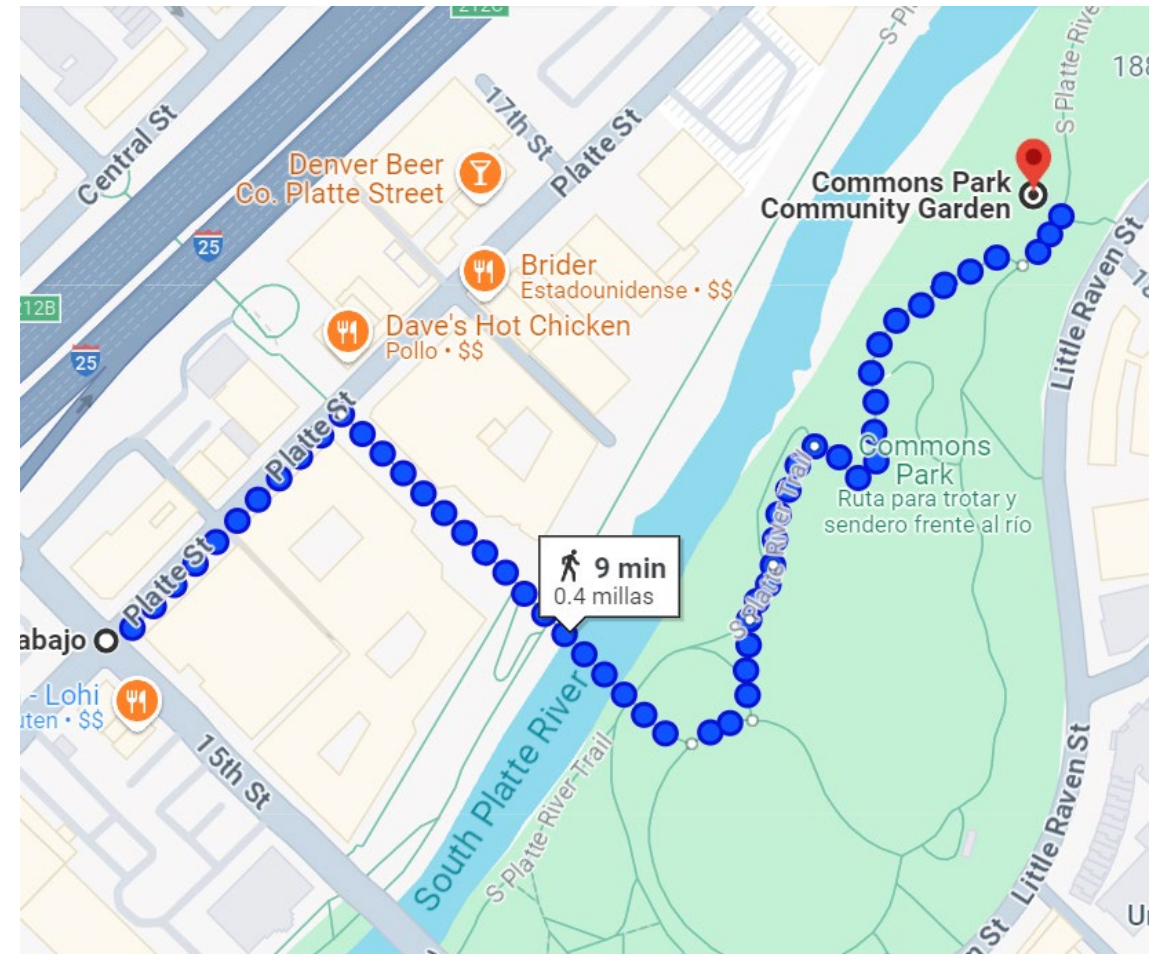


Everyone Feasts with EF, pt. 2

EF GARDENS

EF Gardens – Strategy and Timeline

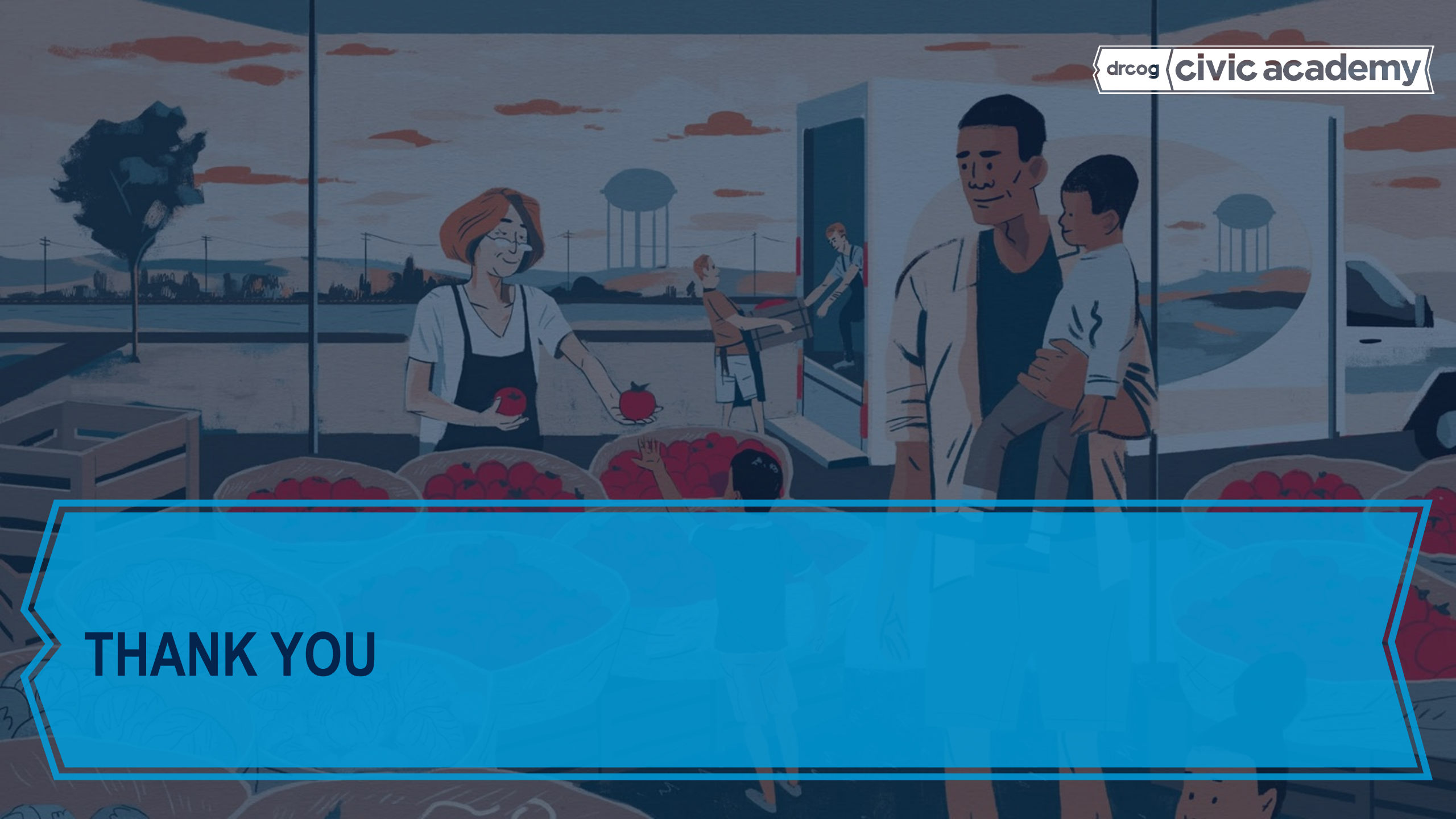
- Ease of access
- Developing relationship with DUG
- Month 1-2: continue to develop relationship with DUG, design proposal
- Month 3-4: finalize sponsorship of DUG garden plot
- Month 4-5: design volunteer program with Office Management
- Month 6: schedule and promote first volunteer outings, invite DUG for opening and education
- Beyond month 6: continued outings, ongoing education in-office and on site with DUG





Measures of Success

- Plot acquisition and/or garden sponsorship
 - Minimum 10 of 31 plots acquired/sponsored
- Enthusiastic participation
 - 100+ volunteer hours from May-September
 - 20+ individual volunteers
 - 10+ individual produce donors
- Food production
 - Total weight harvested (EF Gardens): 500lbs
 - Total weight donated (both programs): 400lbs

An illustration of a community garden or farm stand scene. In the foreground, a woman with short red hair and glasses, wearing a white shirt and dark apron, is handing a red tomato to a child. Several large baskets filled with red tomatoes are on the ground. In the background, a man is loading boxes onto a white truck. A young boy stands next to him. The scene is set outdoors with a body of water, a tree, and a building with a dome in the distance under a cloudy sky.

THANK YOU



Advocating For Greenspace In Westminster

Mae Thompson, Civic Academy Fall 2024

Project Overview



Project Overview



- Jeffco Board of Education sold the property to a developer seeking to build single-family homes.
- 8 acres including elementary school, baseball field, playground, swings, basketball courts, and open green space

Action Plan

- **Engage with the City of Westminster - City Council and the Planning Commission**
 - Petition against rezoning the parcel to accommodate low-density housing.
 - Provide a summary of neighborhood sentiment.
 - Present community desires for the space.
- **Connect with Neighborhood Lead:** offer time and skills to gain neighborhood support and time to discuss proposed plans.
- **Raise awareness of the proposed plan:** create a platform for neighbors to share their sentiments and receive updates.
- **Success is – our neighborhood is heard!**



Thank You!

Mae Thompson



Carissa Bodanza

October 22, 2024

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Jessika Brenin

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<https://prezi.com/view/0iWbN3Z6hdsH3X54CIDK/>



Cherry Creek Trail Sponsor-A-Trail Program

Engaging local businesses
for a safer Cherry Creek Trail

Presented by:
Garrett Teal

October 22, 2024



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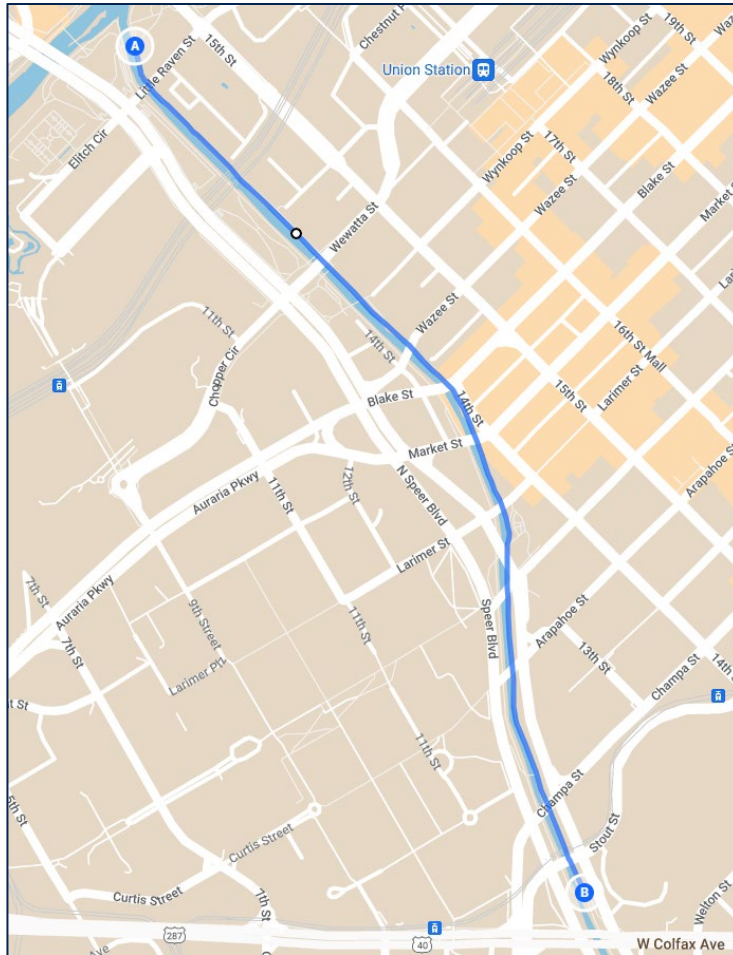
Adopt-A-Trail vs Sponsor-A-Trail



Traditional Adopt-A-Trail programs rely on volunteers for regular clean-up and/or maintenance.

Sponsoring a trail through direct financial giving, can allow the parks department to more efficiently and more consistently care for these spaces.

Cherry Creek Trail



This program would initially prioritize the pedestrian-specific stretch from Confluence Park to Colfax Avenue (roughly 1 mile in length).

Main concerns include:

- Lighting
- Trash/Litter
- Maintenance
- Beautification

Stakeholders



- Denver Parks & Recreation
- Downtown Denver Partnership
- Kroenke Sports & Entertainment
- Auraria Higher Education Center
- Denver Arts & Venues
- ASM Global (Convention Center)
- LoDo Neighborhood Association
- Chris Hinds, Jamie Torres
- Other adjacent businesses and residences

Learning the Benefits of Using Public Transportation

OUR TEAM DURING THIS ADVENTURE



Mersi Canales

Community Engagement
Specialist

- MOC

In this trip we encouraged young people to make use of the RTD and its benefits. At the same time they learned the light rail and bus connections.

For example, what routes to take to get to Denver Health, Union Station, Auraria Campus, Saint Joseph Hospital and Boulder.

Destination

Union Station



PURPOSE OF THE TRIP

The purpose of this trip was to **educate young adults and older people regarding public transportation** and the importance of knowing how to use it.





During this trip, they:

- Learned **how to use public transportation**
 - Gained **awareness about the benefits** of using public transportation
 - Recognized the **steps to using public transportation**
 - Achieved a **new perspective regarding their surroundings** when being in public spaces
 - **Interacted** with other people from **different high schools**, and **cultural backgrounds**.
- 

Us during the trip











As shown in the picture, I explained the various services the RTD has to safely locate our bicycles, wheelchairs, and strollers .



“Hello, my name is Kailey Bañuelos and my experience on the bus was fun and I learned a lot because I had never gotten on a bus and I liked having experienced being or knowing what it feels like to be on a bus. I also learned that I should never stop or cross on the yellow line because the wind from the train when it passes can be dangerous or the wind can take me away and I also liked going because while I was walking I learned that it is nice to go there when it is cold or snowing. I also had the opportunity to talk to other people and learn about them and their cultures.”

“Hi, I'm Omar

This little trip helped me learn how to get on the bus and how to use the train to get to Downtown. Thanks to the use, I had the opportunity to learn about signs, route connections to hospitals, universities, and others.

I went with the Mersi team, we went to eat and walked. I learned that the train is one of the fastest ways you can get to downtown and it's also free for students. I also enjoyed hanging out with older people, and hearing about their experiences and seeing them so happy.”



Thank you!

My information

Mersi Canales

mersi.canales@montbelloorganizing.org

(720) 980 5649

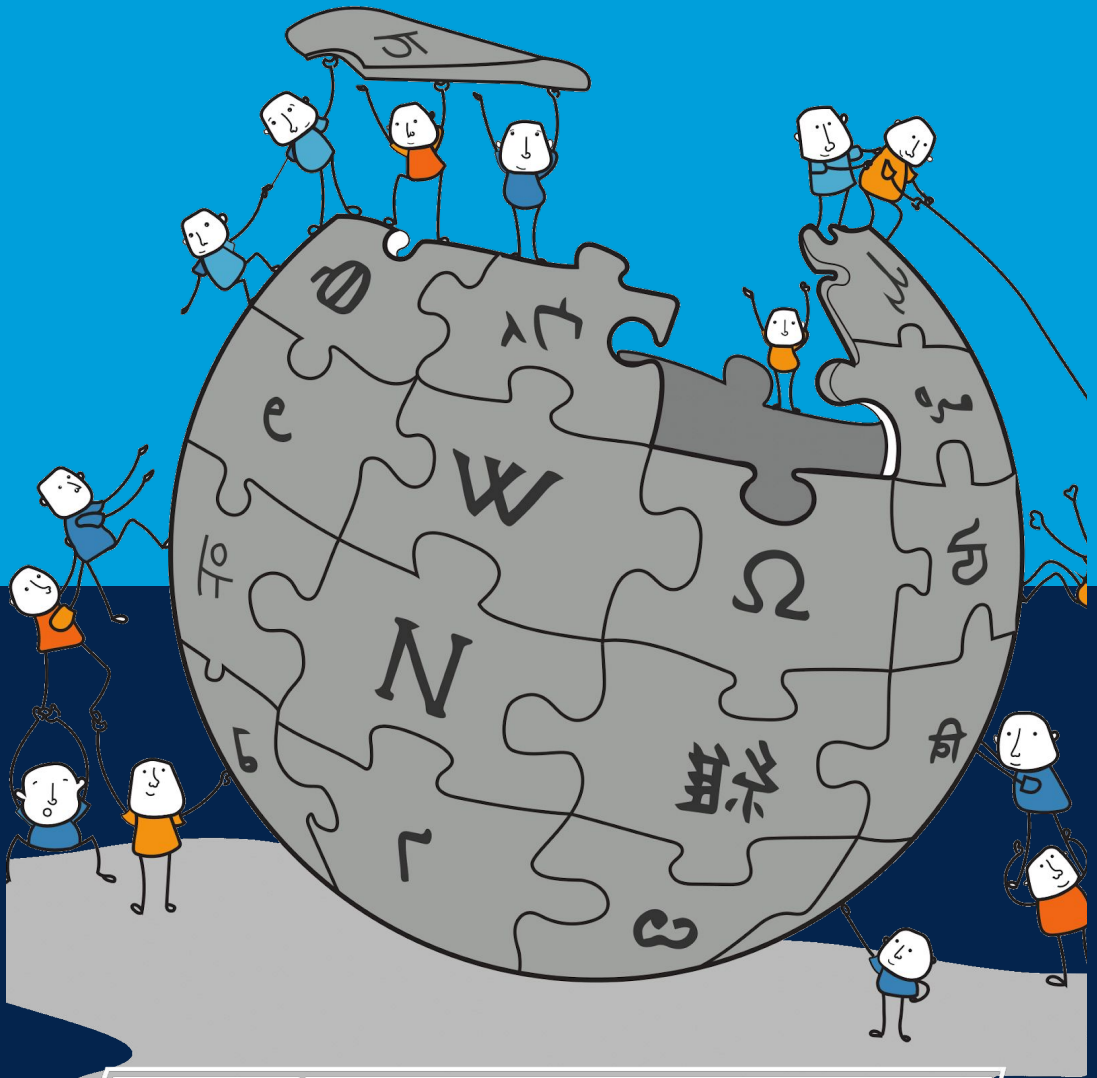


Madi Sydnor

October 22, 2024

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Empowering Community Through Connection

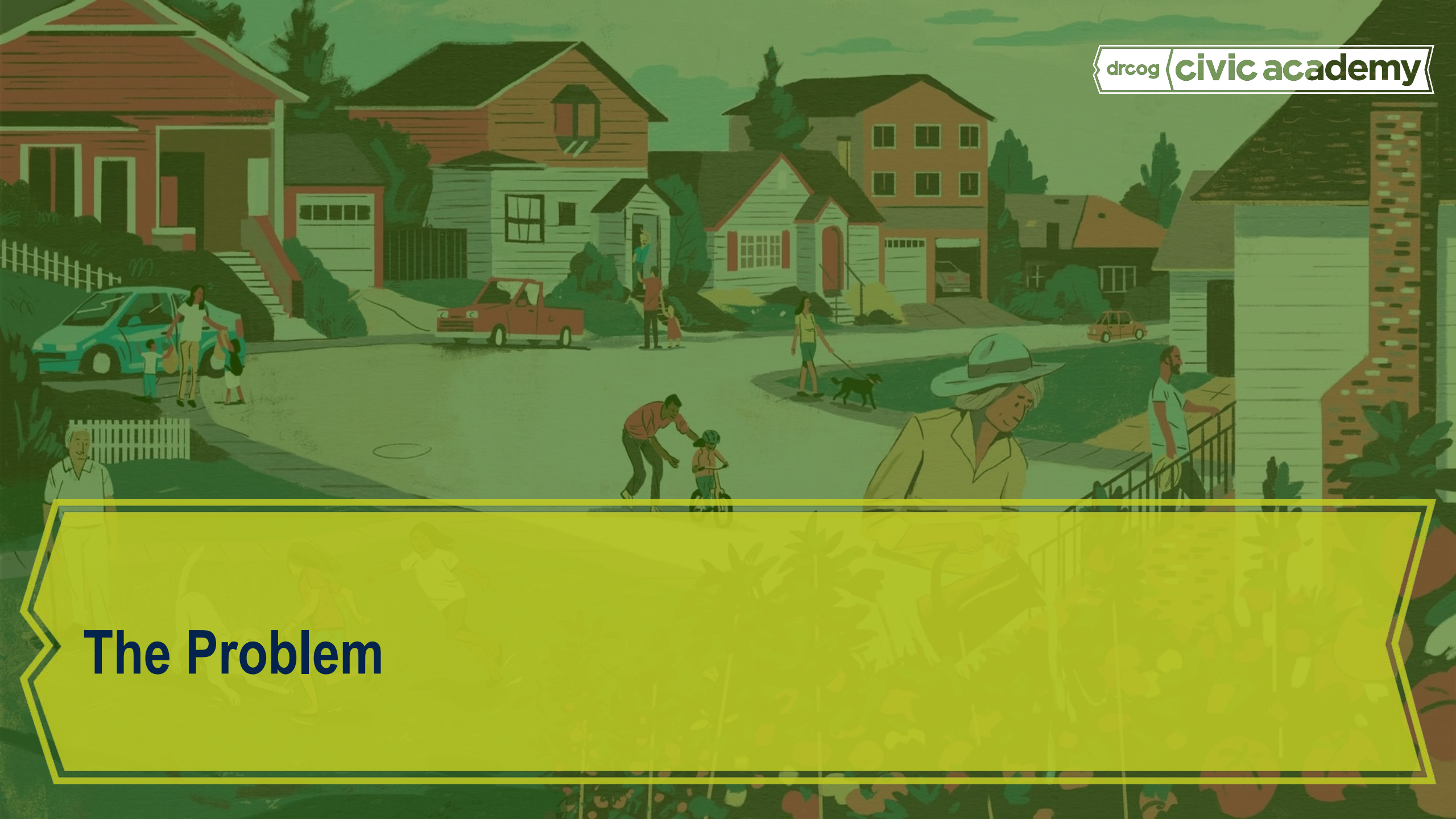
Presented by:
Allison Cole

October 22, 2024

Agenda

Here's What We'll Cover:

- Problem
- Plan Overview
- Goal
- Tasks & Timeline
- What Success Looks Like



The Problem

Disjointed Communities Lead To Spaces That Don't Feel Welcoming

Why is this important?

- Communities that are missing connection to people, places and things are not places you can foster a healthy, inclusive and liveable community.
- Feeling connected to your community means you care about the future of it.



➤ Plan Overview

2 Prong Approach

Phase 1: Community Block Party



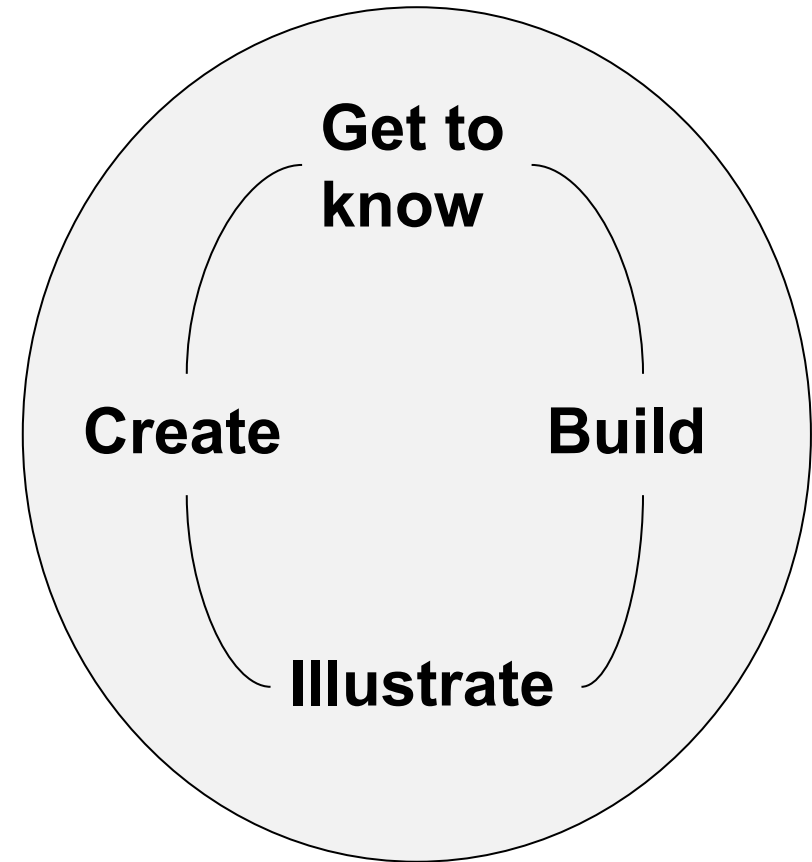
Phase 2: Community Action Board



Goals

4 Main Goals

1. Get to know neighbors and community members.
2. Build sense of community through connections.
3. Illustrate ways to get involved.
4. Create a safe space to share issues and rally around solutions.



Tasks & Timeline

How Do I Make This Happen?



**Reach out to
neighborhood orgs
and businesses
about Block Party**



**Pick a date and
plan logistics for
Block Party**



**Share event details
with community
through multiple
channels**



Host event!



**Gauge
appetite for
CAB**



**Host first CAB
meeting**

What Does Success Look Like?

Success is simple!



VectorStock®

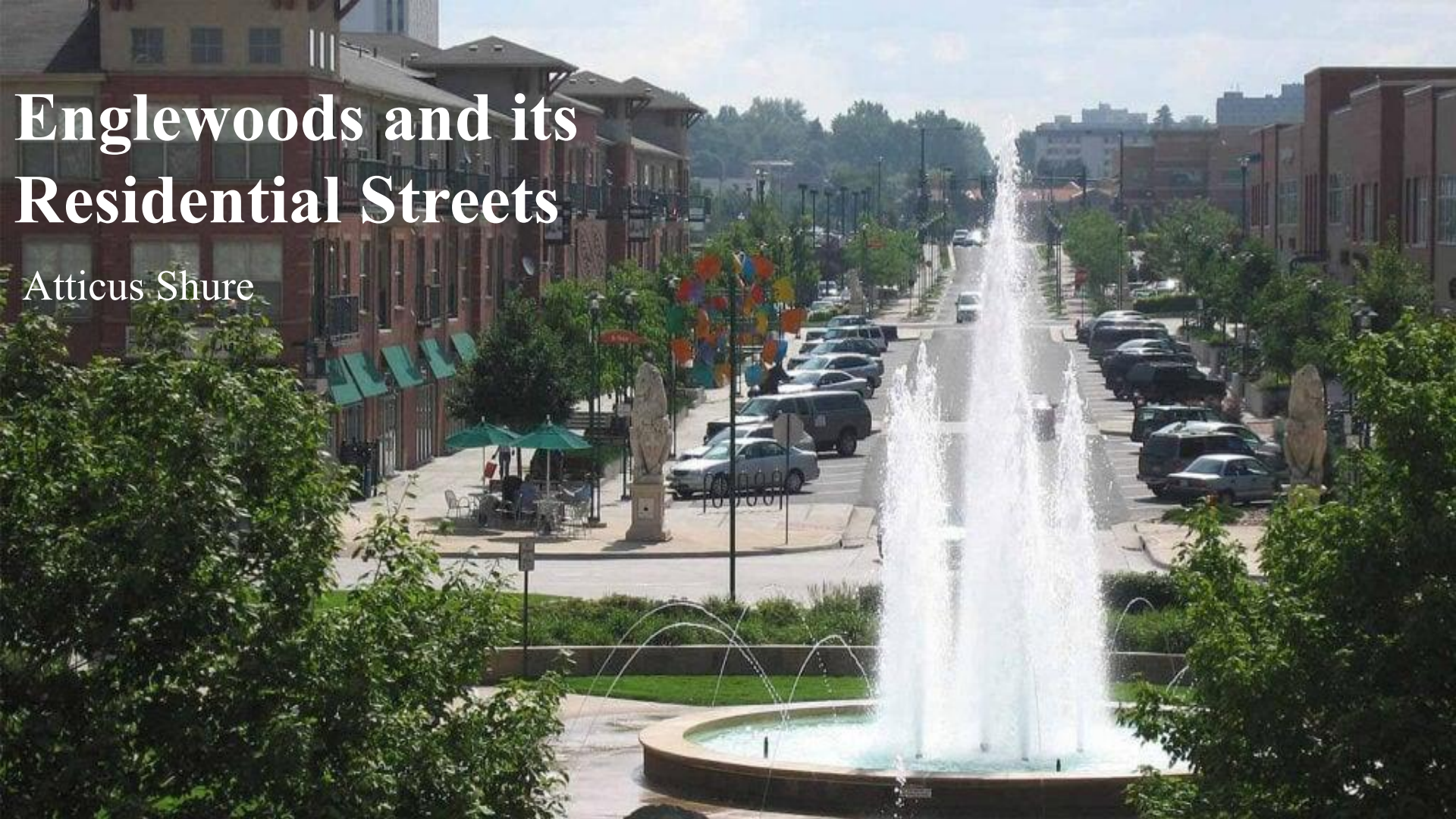
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Thank You!

Englewoods and its Residential Streets

Atticus Shure



Englewood has extremely wide residential streets



South Huron Street

- Englewood residential streets are very wide
- Streets like South Huron, South Acoma and Kenyon have cars going speeds of 35 mph and higher
- Dangerous for pedestrians
- Many children cross these streets
- Lack of any traffic calming measures on these streets

Solutions



Curb extension crosswalk in Littleton



Crosswalk on Kenyon Street Englewood

- Adding curb extensions to intersections(bulbed out)
- More 4-way stops added
- Mini roundabouts
- Crosswalks with crossing signs within the street
- Street narrowing with paint or poles
- Curb extension crosswalks
- Raised crosswalks or speed bumps

What I will do to change Englewood's residential streets



- I will go to city council meetings to explain this issue
- I will contact the Englewood city manager Shawn Lewis to stress the issue
- Campaign to make Englewood residential streets safer
- Talk to advocacy groups within the south metro area to stress the issue of safer streets

Thank you and remember, streets are for the people.

DRCOG Civic Academy





In the United States, we spend more than **\$400 billion** each year to power our homes and buildings. As much as **30%** of that energy and money is wasted.

ARAPAHOE COUNTY WEATHERIZATION DIVISION

LUZ CROGHAN

Weatherization Assistance Program Mission



Reduce energy bills
(90%)



Make homes more
comfortable (71%)

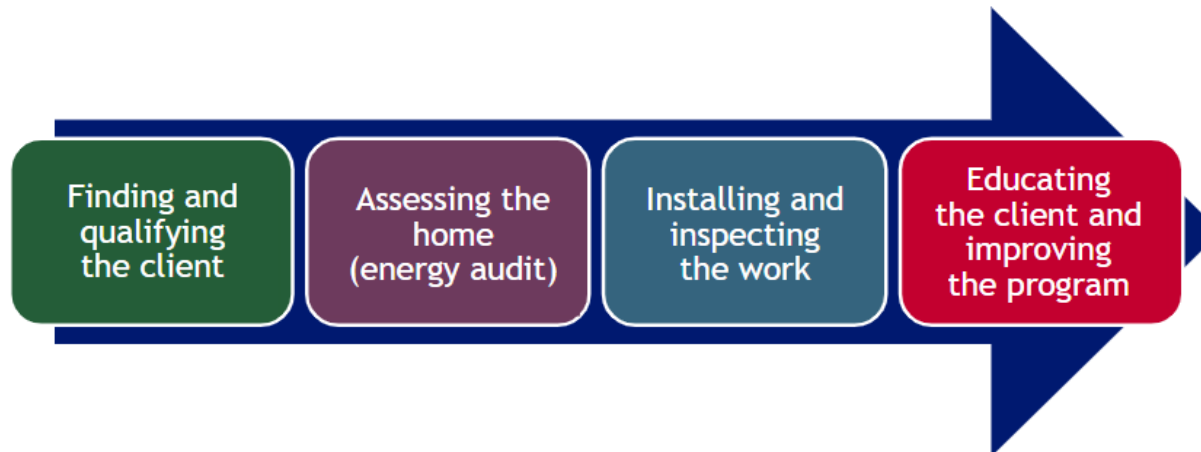


Support environmental
efforts (58%)



Improve home
safety (54%)

Empowering qualified Coloradans- Save Money, Increase Comfort, Improve Their Homes



Call to Action- Let's Spread the Word!

Weatherization Assistance Program works with:

- ✓ Homeowners
- ✓ Renters
- ✓ Single family homes
- ✓ Multi-family homes/apartments
- ✓ Manufactured homes.

**Apply online
for the
Weatherization
Assistance
Program today!**

Paper applications are available upon request, please contact your local weatherization service provider.



Eligibility Fiscal Year 2024

If a household currently receives financial assistance from any of the following programs, they may automatically qualify for weatherization services:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)



COLORADO
Energy Office
Weatherization Assistance Program

80% Area Median Income for:
Arapahoe county

Household size	80% AMI Income Limit
1	\$73,040
2	\$83,520
3	\$93,920
4	\$104,.320
5	\$112,720
6	\$121,040
7	\$129,360



RTD's Public Drug Use Problem

A Place-Based, Services Oriented Solution

Presented by:

Bob Dinegar

DRCOG Fall 2024 Civic Academy Cohort

October 22, 2024

RTD RIDERSHIP DOWN BY 40%

- RTD exists to provide a viable alternative to single occupancy vehicles.
- RTD has a public drug use problem which negatively impacts the experience of using its services.
- The perception of an unsafe transit environment is a major reason ridership remains low.

FROM "HELLHOLE" TO DIASPORA OF THE VULNERABLE



- In 2021 RTD's GM/CEO and Board, reacting to a public declaration by the head of RTD's Union Local that Union Station had become a "hellhole" instituted policies to "discourage loitering of 'non-destination' individuals".
- The forced exodus of these vulnerable folks from "Denver's Living Room" resulted in a diaspora that spread across RTD's system and remains a problem to this day.

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS

- Last year, just in Denver, 575 folks died of a drug related death, our most ever.
- Every overdose death is preventable.
- Denver lacks public health interventions to reduce rates of public drug use.
- A transit adjacent harm reduction facility would significantly impact rates of public drug use.
- Numerous peer-reviewed scientific studies have proven the positive impacts of harm reduction facilities.
- No one's son or daughter has ever died at an HRF.

WHAT IS HARM REDUCTION?

- Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing the public health risks associated with drug use.
- Harm Reduction calls for the non-judgmental, non-coercive provision of services and resources to people who use drugs, and the communities in which they live, in order to assist them in reducing harm.
- Harm Reduction is not the opposite of Recovery, it is just the more patient and sustainable route.

A HUB OF HOPE



- The University of Denver Station has 40,000 sf of retail space.
- It's been vacant for 18 years, since the station opened in 2006.
- Denver's Harm Reduction Action Center would LOVE to set up shop there.

LET'S CONNECT THE DOTS



- This is one of four 10,000 SF retail spaces currently used for storage at the DU Station.
- RTD is considering putting its Transit Police HQ onsite.
- A Harm Reduction Facility co-located with them would make for great synergies.
- Just a place to be, with care providers, clean syringes and support referrals will keep folks alive and make RTD's "Welcoming Transit Environment" a reality for all.



Timothy Hoskens

October 22, 2024

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VIBRANT ENGLEWOOD

A community voice for a
city that puts people first



Presented by:

Noah Kaplan

October 22, 2024

- Englewood is a small city where a few organized individuals can have an effective voice
- Vibrant Englewood will identify and recruit community members who believe in safe and convenient mobility choices, abundant affordable housing, strong local education system, and a diverse and inclusive community in Englewood

Some Facts About Englewood, Colorado:

- Incorporated: 1903
- Population: ~35,000
- Inner-ring suburb immediately south of Denver
- 7-member city council which selects the mayor from its members
- Served primarily by Englewood Public Schools

Vibrant Englewood Action Plan Timeline



Already completed:

- Website – www.vibrantenglewood.org
- Instagram - www.instagram.com/vibrantenglewood/

Ongoing:

- Introductory meetings with targeted community members
- Planning for regular meetings

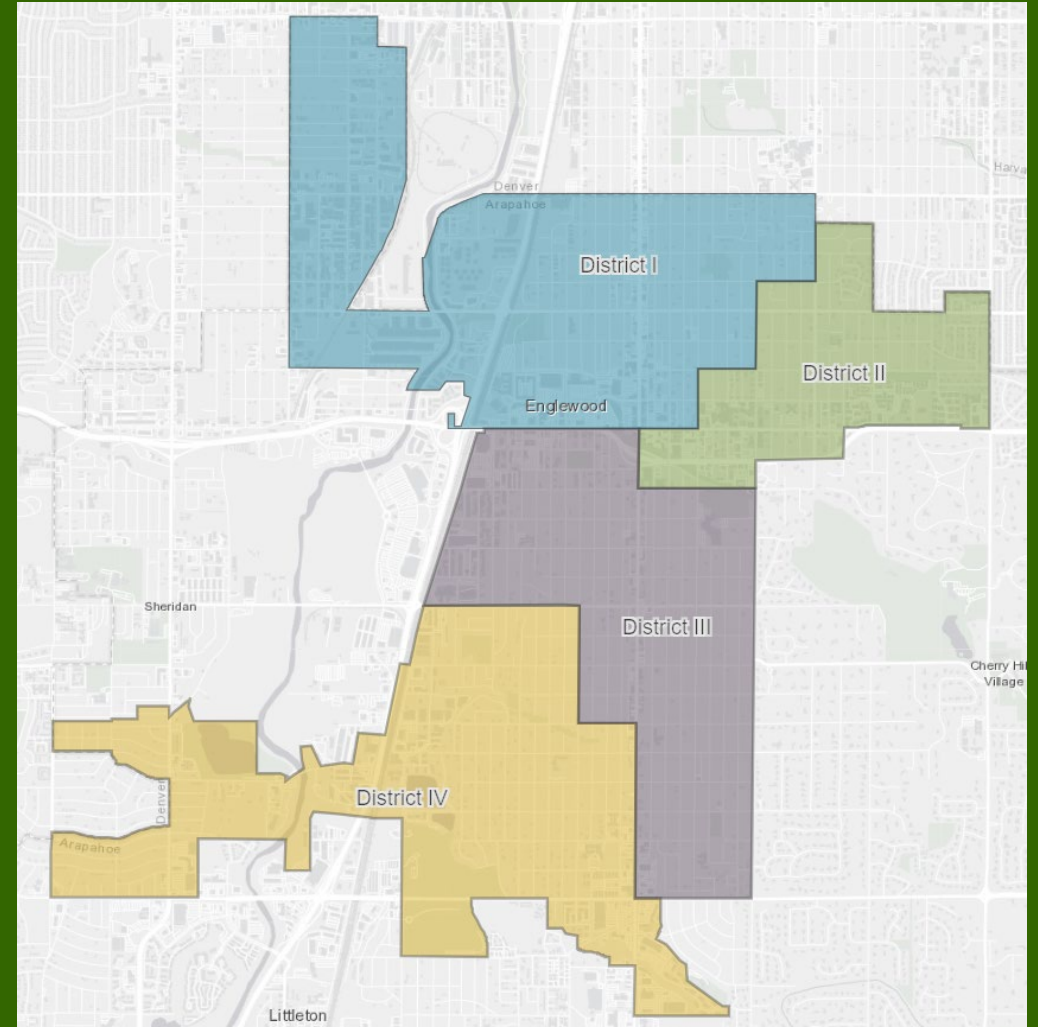
By November 2024:

- Hold first meeting and schedule on-going meeting cadence
- Collaborate on developing mission, vision, and key issues
- Plan first campaign action
- Expand community outreach and marketing to grow the organization

Goals and Success Metrics

By the end of 2025:

- At least 20 members who reliably attend meetings and action events
- At least 500 email newsletter subscribers
- Influence City Council or other decision-makers on 2-3 key issues or policies
- Established fundraising model for long-term sustainability



RiNo - Five Points Farmer's Market

Expanding Grocery
Access in the RiNo & Five
Points Neighborhoods

Presented by:
Matilda Kreider

October 22, 2024

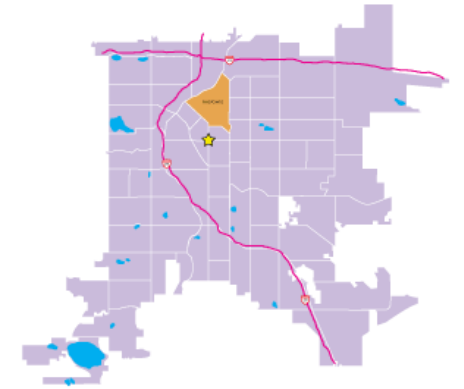


Understanding the problem: why are there so few grocery stores in the RiNo and Five Points neighborhoods?

- Five Points: historically Black neighborhood, historic food desert
 - USDA definition: an area where at least 500 people, or 33% of the population, live over a mile from a grocery store or large supermarket
- RiNo: historically industrial area with growing residential and commercial uses... and one specialty grocery store
- Increasing population growth and density, gentrification → grocery stores?



FIVE POINTS



Identifying solutions: grocery stores, food co-ops, farmer's markets



- Ideal: multiple new affordable grocery stores
- Could help: food co-op
- Within reach: a RiNo-Five Points farmer's market
 - Must-haves:
 - Produce and other standard, non-specialty grocery vendors
 - Affordability (reasonable prices, accepting SNAP, EBT, and other forms of food assistance)
 - Nice-to-haves:
 - Centrally located (Larimer?)
 - In an empty lot or 2900 Larimer pedestrian block
 - Open year-round

Action plan: steps toward creating the RiNo/Five Points Farmer's Market

- Immediate outreach:
 - Operators of former RiNo farmer's market (ended in 2020)
 - Operators of other Denver farmer's markets
 - Nearby businesses and property owners (e.g., Denver Central Market, Graffiti Gardens, Farm + Market)
 - Vendors at other Denver farmer's markets
 - RiNo Business Improvement District and General Improvement District
 - Neighbors, residents
- Future steps:
 - Working with operating company/organization to plan and obtain permits and approvals (property use, city permits, outreach to potential vendors, etc.)
 - Surveying residents about details (location, timing, types of vendors)



Chloe Grant

October 22, 2024

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https://youtu.be/y_QN7sCqCe8

**SPEEDY. GREEN.
COMMUNITY-
FOCUSED
DELIVERY**



ghostcouriers.com

The background of the slide is a collage of food items, including french fries, a burger, and a bowl of food. A large green rectangular overlay covers the center of the image. On the left and right sides of the green overlay, there are four white circles of varying sizes, arranged in a pattern that suggests a stylized face or a decorative element.

BIKE DELIVERY ON COLFAX AVE DURING BRT CONSTRUCTION

Working with Ghost Couriers to refine their pitch, organize their sales process, ramp up marketing, spread the word, and connect them directly to Colfax Ave restaurant owners.

ghostcouriers.com

THE PLAN



CRAFT A PITCH AND TELL
THEIR STORY



DEVELOP A DIGITAL
TOOLKIT WITH MARKETING
RESOURCES



CONNECT TO RESTAURANT
OWNERS



SUCCESS HAPPENS WHEN

Ghost Couriers increases
participating restaurants,
users, and annual revenue.

Restaurants

Users

Annual Revenue



CALL TO ACTION

BOOKMARK THEIR SITE TODAY!



ghostcouriers.com

Tell your Capitol Hill, Uptown, Downtown, Five Points, and City Park friends about this amazing group of dedicated couriers and ask them to switch to a food delivery partner that offers SPEEDY, GREEN, COMMUNITY-FOCUSED DELIVERY!





THANK YOU

With just a little support, this initiative can make a huge impact—not only by helping Colfax Ave businesses thrive through construction but also by saving restaurants and customers money by cutting out predatory third-party delivery apps. Now is the time to take a bold, thoughtful step toward a more sustainable future—for our people, our businesses, and our planet. Let's make a difference that lasts.





Design for Social Change

AN URBAN DESIGN & POLICY THINK TANK

Mission

AT DESIGN FOR SOCIAL CHANGE, WE ARE COMMITTED TO LEVERAGING DESIGN AS A TRANSFORMATIVE TOOL TO ADDRESS SYSTEMIC SOCIAL INEQUITIES AND CREATE JUST, INCLUSIVE, AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES. OUR INTERDISCIPLINARY THINK TANK BRINGS TOGETHER ARCHITECTS, DESIGNERS, RESEARCHERS, AND POLICYMAKERS TO GENERATE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO COMPLEX, WICKED PROBLEMS. THROUGH OPEN-SOURCE RESOURCES, COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH, AND ACTIONABLE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS, WE AIM TO CHALLENGE OPPRESSIVE STRUCTURES IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND EMPOWER COMMUNITIES TO RECLAIM SPACE FOR COLLECTIVE WELL-BEING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

Endeavors



Educational
Events



Case Studies &
Research



Non-Profit
Support



Policy Change

Educational Events



WORKSHOPS



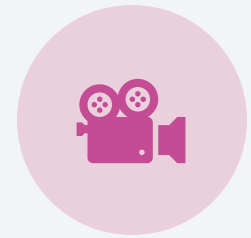
PANEL
DISCUSSIONS



DESIGN
CHARETTES



LEGAL
CLINICS



FILM
SCREENINGS

Case Studies & Research Topics

Environmental
Justice & Zoning
Laws

Disability Rights &
Universal Design

Housing Equity &
Anti-Gentrification

Public Health &
Infrastructure

Transportation
Equity & Access to
Services

Immigration &
Urban Integration

Criminal Justice
Reform & Urban
Safety

Climate Resilience
& Community Land
Trusts



SUPPORT FOR NON-PROFITS

LAND BACK INITIATIVE IN FORT COLLINS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER IN BOULDER

DISABILITY RIGHTS ORGANIZATION IN DENVER

Policy Change



Community Engagement



Interdisciplinary Research



Legal Advocacy Campaigns



Policy Toolkits for Local Government



Public Demonstrations

Next Steps

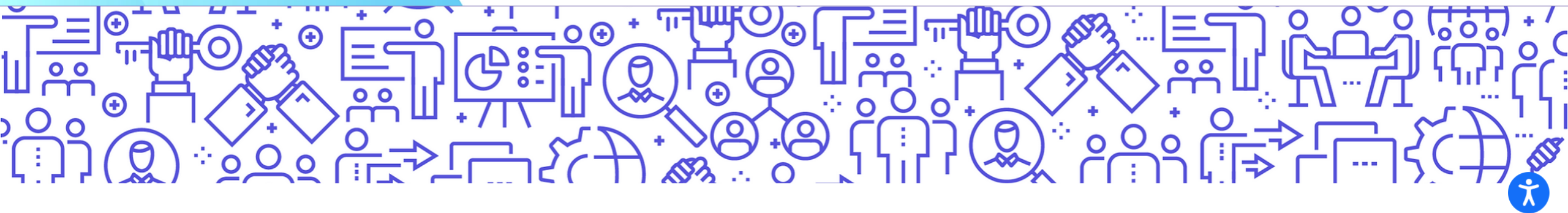


Free Certificate in Nonprofit Essentials

Learn the essentials of working in the nonprofit sector with this free certificate program from NonprofitReady. These short courses cover nonprofit structure and governance, how nonprofits raise money for their cause, and the skills you need to build a thriving career in the nonprofit sector.

Create My Free Account

Already have an account? [Login here.](#)



Revising Lakewood's Land Dedication Ordinance

Presented by Marianne Nagel
DrCog Civic Academy
October 21, 2024

The Problem: Green Space has not been added as multifamily development has replaced former retail areas.



Things to know about this issue:

Land dedication is not the same as open space zoning requirements.

Current Ordinance requires land dedication or fee-in-lieu on all residential development at a rate of 5.5 acres per 1000 population added.

In the current Ordinance, if the parcel under development is less than 15 acres in size, land dedication or fee-in-lieu is at the discretion of the Community Resources Director. Fees have been accepted on all projects for the last six years.

All projects in Lakewood are approved administratively.

Fees were recently increased from 246K/acre to 433K/acre. Actual land cost is about 830K/acre.

Timeline

October 2021	Letter to Council Candidates
January 2022	Letter to new Council Members with lots of supporting data
April 2022	Consultants begin Study (Imagine Tomorrow)
January 2023	Letter to Council
May 2023	Imagine Tomorrow presented to Council
August 2023	Opponents of development at Belmar park begin to organize
November 2023	Neighborhood group meets with new consulting firm
January 2024	Letter to Council (both old and new members)
April 2024	Council Study Session with preliminary report from new consultants
April 2024	Save Belmar Park Organization begins petition drive
August 2024	Discussion with City staff re staff proposal
August 2024	Letter to Council Responding to April Study Session
October 2024	Petition from Save Belmar Park Organization filed with City

Costs:

About 350K in consultant costs

175K to 350K for special election on citizen initiative

Costs of green space to developers

Example Area: Westland Target	Units	Green Space	Overall Density
As built	835 units	none	51 units/acre
With 5.5 acres per 1000 population (Miller Heights Group)	580 units	4.54 acres	35 units/acre
With 10.5 acres per 1000 population (Belmar Park Group)	326 units	6.85 acres	20 units/acre

Presented by Theresa Garcia | October 22, 2024

CONNECTING THROUGH CLUBS: BUILDING BRIDGING CAPITAL THROUGH MEMBERSHIP

The Challenge: “Bowling Alone” Phenomenon

- Beyond a decline in membership, seeing a decline in *feeling* like we’re connected with each other, and that we trust each other
 - Partisanship
 - Mental Health strain
 - Loneliness
 - Good news: Coloradans are less lonely than average Americans (38% compared to 40.3%) – perhaps indicates more of a willingness to join/participate in communal activities? Or perhaps a reflection of our population & age

A Solution: Building Bridging Social Capital

- Bridging & Bonding
 - Bonding social capital
 - Refers to close-knit, strong ties between people who are similar and share a background. Bonding social capital is often exclusive and can seem inward looking.
 - Bridging social capital
 - Refers to weaker ties that connect people who are different, have different backgrounds, and belong to different networks. Bridging social capital is often more inclusive and can help create new forms of community.
- So, how do we build it??

The Opportunity: A Tabling Event for Clubs & Membership Organizations

- During Denver Days?
- Survey community to know what kinds of groups they'd like to join
- Bring organizations together to showcase themselves to a community hungry for connection
- Share database of clubs, organizations to be a lasting resource

Goals, Outcomes, and Associated Benefits

- Increase in reported membership YOY in participating organizations
- Building cross-generational relationships
- More people learning how to do something with people who are not just like them



Banner Upcycling

THE WIN-WIN!

Presented by Laura Newman*

*Special thanks to Mile High Workshop (Adrienne Tafilowski)
and Esperanza Productions (Irma Reyes)





Large Tote Bag



Medium Tote Bag



Small Tote Bag



All Purpose Tote Bag



Duffle Bag



Messenger Bag



Dopp Bag



Zipper Pouch

WHO IS



Creates employment opportunities and provides job training to help people rebuild from addictions, homelessness and incarcerations

10-year-old non-profit; 38th/Colorado Blvd; 20,000 sq. ft. warehouse and specialize in assembly, kitting, and banner upcycling

Sustainability, Collaboration and Impact: In 2023, they saved 3 tons of banner material from going to the landfill!!!



My Personal Action Plan:

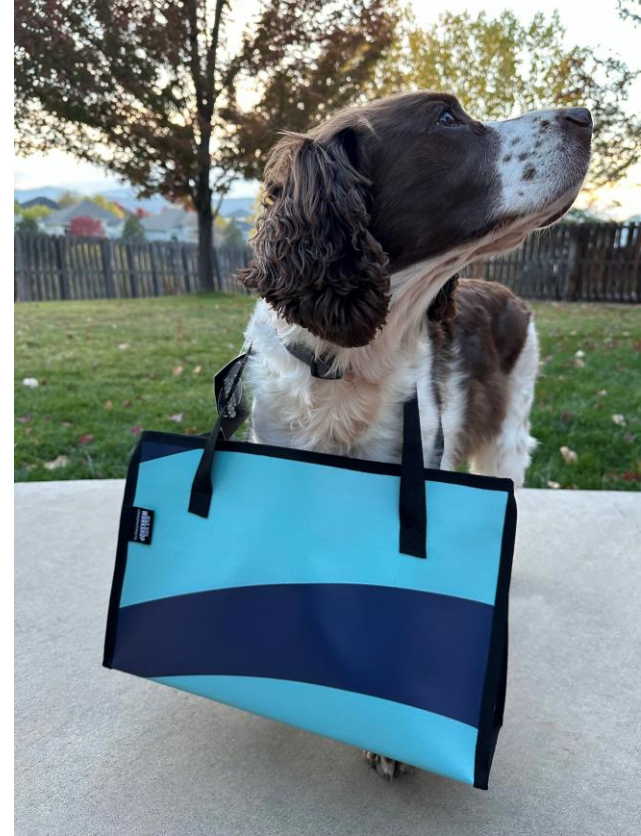
Assist the process of getting local businesses to send their used banners to MHW and pay to upcycle

- ✓ Keep banners out of landfill
- ✓ Create new, durable items
- ✓ Provide work and revenue for MWH

● **Seek to Understand:** Visited MHW in April; Met with the Executive Director 2x times this year and expressed my interest in promoting banner upcycling in the front range

● **Awareness:** Civic Academy class, reaching out to churches, rec centers, construction sites, contact CO B Corps

● **Go to the Source:** Outreach to companies that produce these banners (Outfront, Lamar, Speedpro, Fastsigns, Denver Print Co, Mile High Graphics)





How you can help:

MileHighWorkshop.org

 [mile_high_workshop](https://www.instagram.com/mile_high_workshop)

 [Mile High Workshop](https://www.facebook.com/MileHighWorkshop)



Email or text me: Lauranew180@gmail.com or 720-273-3908

Donate: #Give10, Colorado Gives, Giving Tuesday (Dec 3)

Shop: www.milehighworkshop.org/bannerbags

Volunteer: Food Donations, Events Planning, Marketing Projects, Job Coaching, Financial Coaching



THANK YOU!



Colorado Department of Public Health
and the Environment (CDPHE) in Denver



with the Air Pollution
Control Division (APCD)

Guest: Zia O'Neill

About Zia

New graduate

Learning is not limited to classroom walls

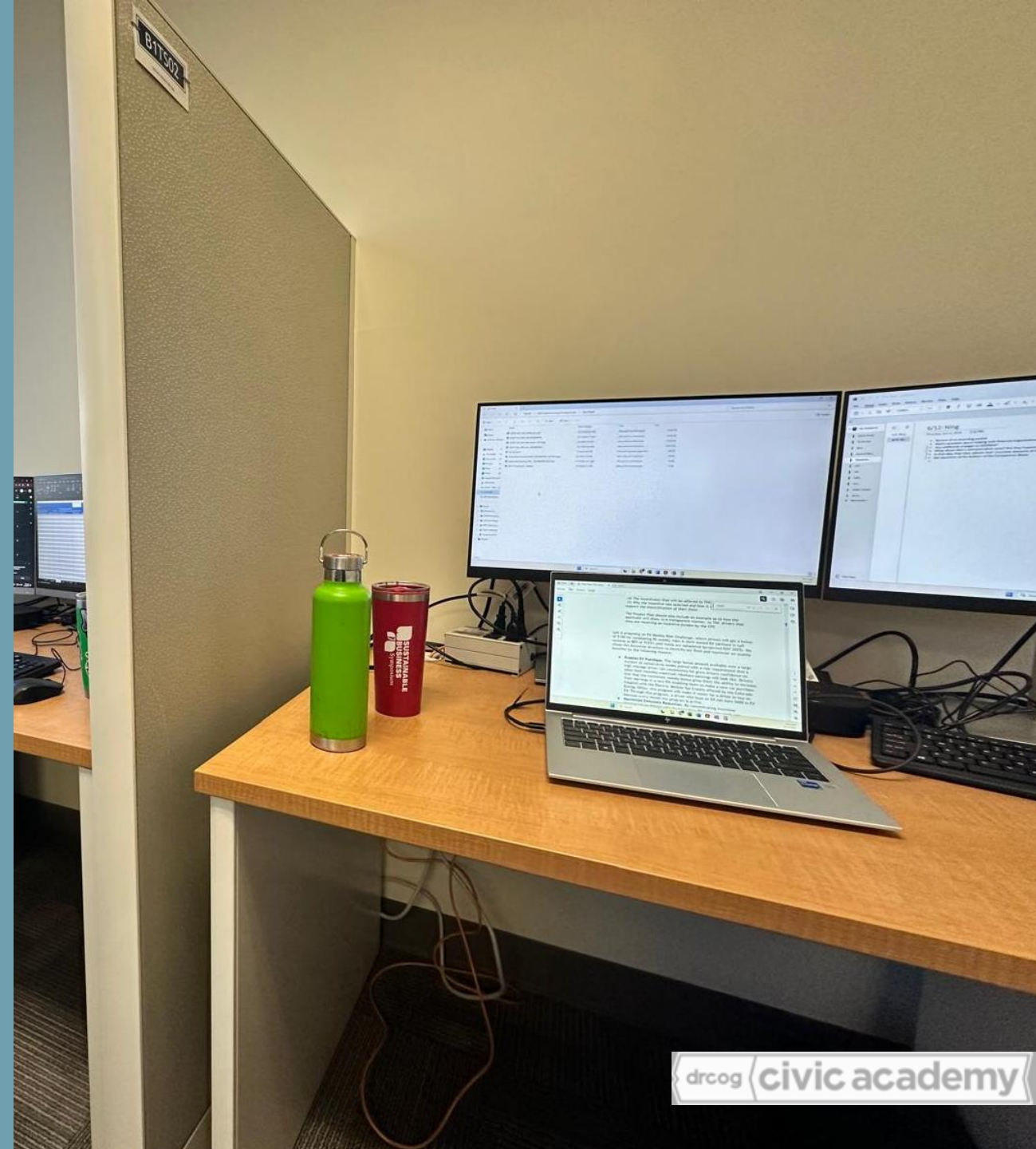
There is no one solution

How to maximize positive impact?



Air Pollution Control Division

1. Mobile Sources Program
2. Climate Change Program
3. Planning & Policy Program
4. Office of Innovation Planning Unit
5. Compliance and Enforcement Program
6. Community, Partnership, and Policy Program
7. Technical Services Program
8. Air Toxics and Ozone Precursor Program
9. Business Operations
10. Oil and Gas Program
11. Indoor Environment Program
12. Title V Permitting Program
13. Construction Permitting & Permit Modeling Program



The Problem

Disconnected teams

Knowledge silos

Duplicative work

No route to build subject matter expertise



Fresh Air with APCD

Monthly Meeting

30-Min

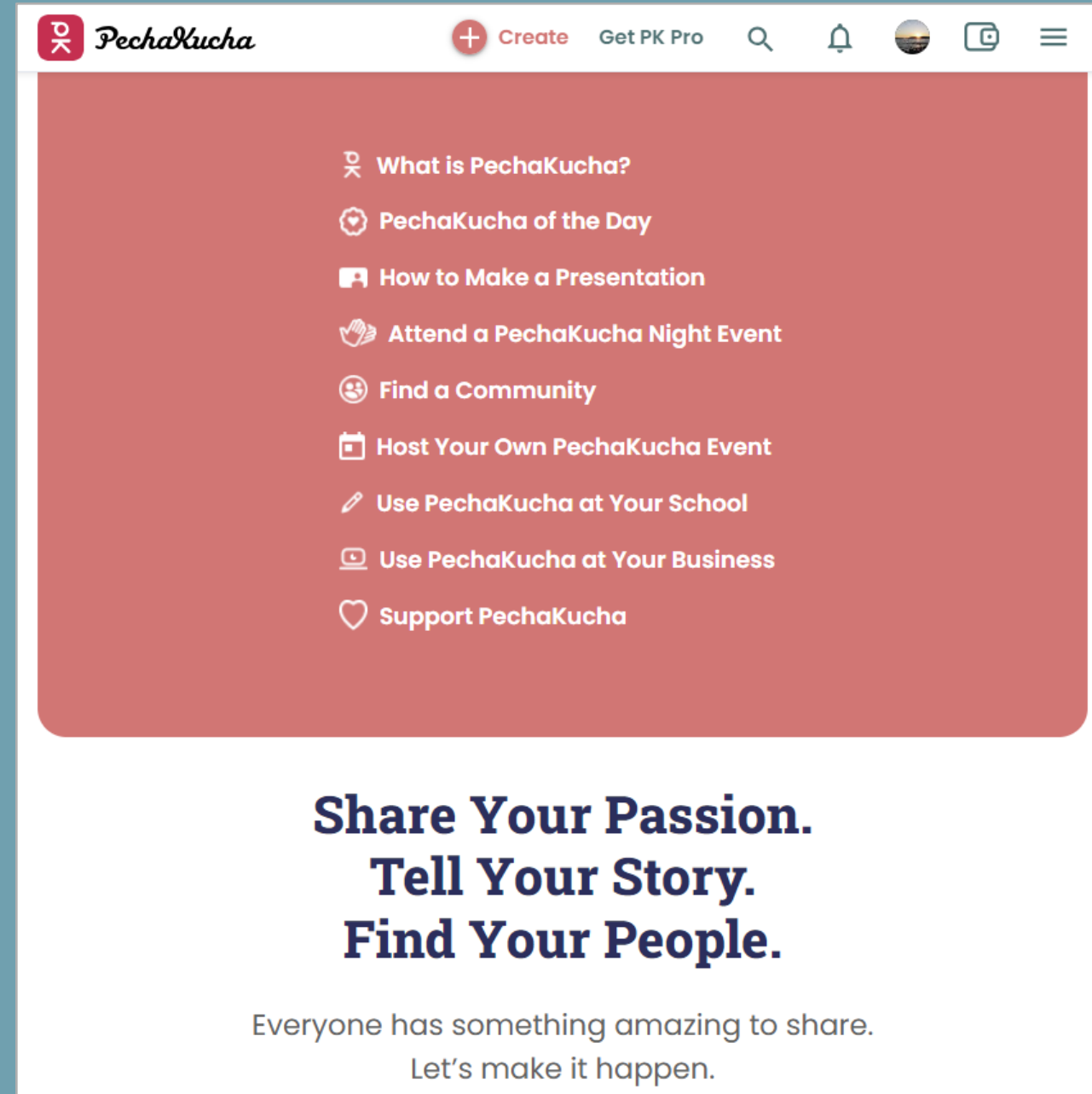
Open to all



Pecha Kucha Model

20 seconds
20 slides

2 presentations



Intended Consequences

Grow knowledge of issues

Increase collaboration

Discuss potential solutions

Celebrate continued learning



Unintended Consequences

Build community

Improve employee satisfaction and retention

Be more effective employees

Spark new ideas

Save money, time, and resources



Next Steps

Submit proposal

Department approval

Select 1st meeting date

Present at APCD staff meeting

Host first Fresh Air with APCD
event!



Thank you!

ziamaeo@gmail.com



DRCOG

Transit Oriented Development Documentary

Creative Brief | Individual Action Plan



Prepared By: Coleman Erickson

Overview

Produce a short documentary discussing development patterns, policy, and activism in the Denver region in conjunction with DRCOG, Denver Streets Partnership, and Greater Denver Transit.

Audience

The message of this documentary is intended to connect with the residents of the greater Denver region of all ages, but specifically politically active groups and those who rely on convenient transportation access in our cities.

Key Figures

Runtime	20 Minutes
Budget	\$5,000

Key Strategy

Messaging	Building our streets, housing, work, and third spaces around the goal of moving people safely in a diverse and sustainable mix of transit modes creates a better place for all of us to live.
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Mini-Doc Goals

Goal 1	Establish understanding of what works and what doesn't
Goal 2	create an equitable understanding of how transit moves us all
Goal 3	Move people to action! Activism, Policy, Development

Deliverables

Type	Specifications	Deadline
Finalized Script	Peer reviewed style, Org. Approved contents	11/30/24
Storyboard\Outline	With location and crew confirmations	01/31/25
Finished Film	Third, if not fourth round cuts with Org. approvals	04/25/25

Timelines

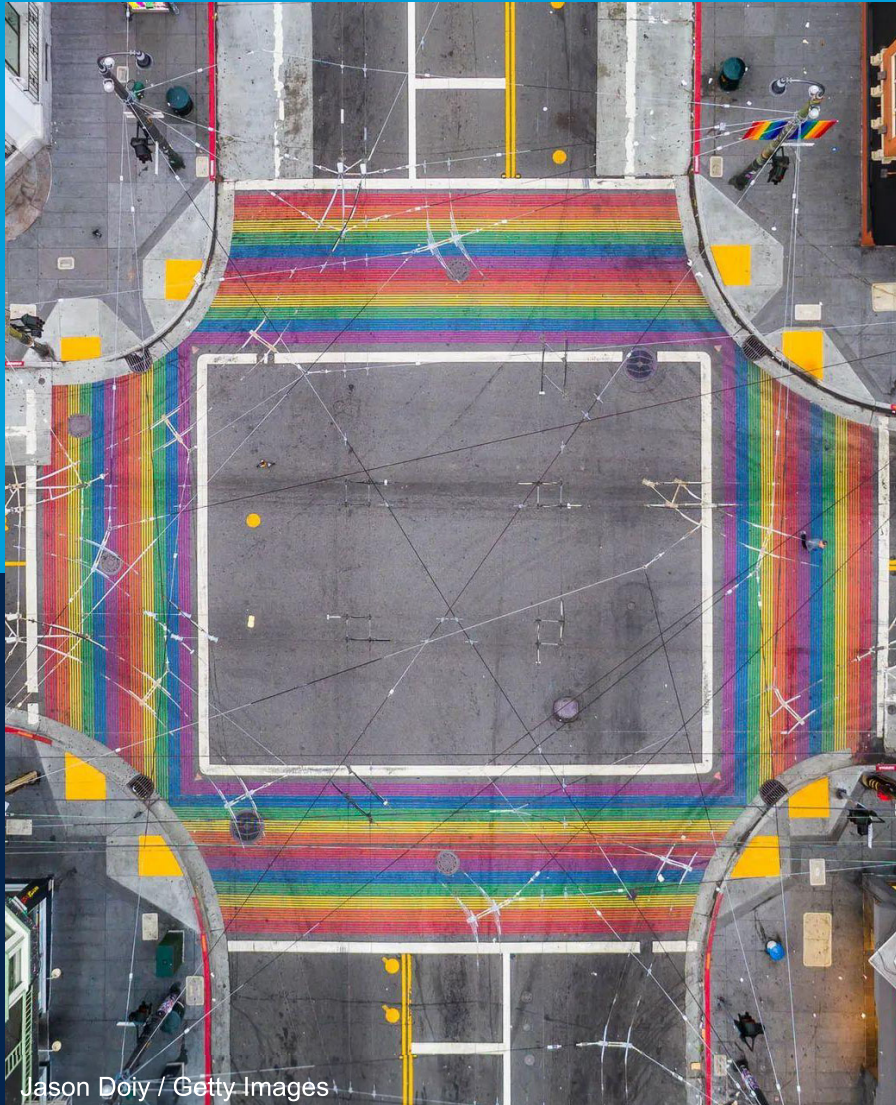
Pre-prod.	11/30/24	script locked
	01/17/25	shooting schedule and locations locked
	01/31/25	crew and interviewees locked
Prod	02/07/25	Voice-overs and On Location clips in the can
	03/07/25	Interviews scheduled and in filming
	03/07/25	B-roll and key clips secured
Post-prod.	03/21/25	principle cut finished/additional color/audio editing identified
	04/25/25	supplemental editing finished, Final cut deliverable
	TBD	Distribution and publishing

DRCOG

Reach out if you would like more information or to discuss how you can help.

(303) 217-6226

colemanerickson@gmail.com



Queer Placemaking in Denver

Presented by:
Patrick Teese

October 22, 2024

OVERALL GOAL:

**Support the development and preservation of
queer-inclusive and -centered spaces and places
in Denver.**

▣ *building on good work
already happening!*

▣ *identifying resources to help those efforts build new
community infrastructure -- and maintain what already
exists*

Support the **development and preservation** of

queer-inclusive and -centered spaces and places

in **Denver.**

*you've
heard
of it!*

*promoting safety & respect
while prioritizing
experiences for members of
the LGBTQ+ community*

*fostering attachment,
belonging, & community
-- in part through the
physical environments
we inhabit*

APPROACH:

- ✓ ☐ Complete **Civic Academy!**
- ☐ Continue **research** on queer placemaking.
 - Collate **success stories** and **best practices**.
 - Invite connections to **discussion group** in early 2025.
- ☐ Meet with **existing organizations** and efforts:
 - Coffee with Lavender Hill Cultural District
 - Volunteer at Center on Colfax
 - Support Gay Games Denver efforts
- ☐ Facilitate **coalition-building** among groups and new connections.
 - Start with LGBTQ+ athletic orgs!



WHAT COULD COME NEXT?





Britt Fuiks

October 22, 2024

drcog **civic academy**

If you need digital accessibility assistance, submit a request at drcog.org/access or call 303-455-1000. Please expect a response within 72 hours (three business days)

WORLD

Write your story,
sing your song,
speak truth into
the hard parts.