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RiNo Art District Begins Construction on ArtPark Community Hub

Slated for completion in summer 2021, ArtPark Community Hub will serve as center of creativity, learning, recreation, dining and entertainment

DENVER (Feb. 9, 2020) – [RiNo Art District](http://www.rinoartpark.com), a 501(c)(6) nonprofit grassroots arts organization dedicated to fostering a welcoming, creative community where a diversity of artists, residents and businesses thrive, today announced construction has begun on ArtPark Community Hub, a \$4.5 million, three-acre adaptive-reuse project at 35th Street and Arkins Court in Denver. The new facility will celebrate art, innovation, education, small business, and community empowerment.

In February, Denver City Council approved RiNo Art District’s long-term lease of two historic buildings at the site, which were originally slated for demolition. Construction is being led by Mark Young Construction, with architecture by Tres Birds Workshop. Completion is slated for summer 2021.

“We are grateful for the partnership of the City of Denver and the generosity of the many donors who are helping make ArtPark Community Hub a reality,” said Tracy Weil, Co-Founder and Executive Director of the RiNo Art District. “This project is an example of the power of community collaboration and advocacy in action. Affordability and access to public art and green space have been persistent challenges as our area has grown and changed, and now we are in the unique position to address both while retaining two historic buildings for community benefit.”

ArtPark Community Hub is the result of years of advocacy on the part of RiNo Art District as well as collaboration with local organizations to envision programming that will address community needs and create accessible spaces for creativity and learning for the surrounding historic neighborhoods. In February 2018, the City of Denver granted RiNo Art District a letter of intent to lease the vacant buildings, formerly Denver Police Department facilities.

Through this partnership, RiNo Art District is responsible for the renovation, build out, fundraising, activation, and programming for these buildings in a way never before seen in a public park in Colorado. The art district is in the process of raising \$4.5 million through an ongoing capital campaign for construction and startup costs, with a quarter of that raised so far. The City of Denver and Denver Parks and Recreation have recently completed the open plaza as well as the park’s green space.



Through a partnership with RiNo Art District, RedLine Contemporary Art Center will help facilitate eight affordable studios within ArtPark Community Hub, as well as arts education programs that are responsive to the needs of the surrounding communities.

“As an expansion of our social justice mission, RedLine will look to further engage with longtime community partners and artists, as well as develop new artist-driven programs that the studio collective, the park partners and neighborhood will inform,” said Louise Martorano, Executive Director of RedLine Contemporary Art Center in Denver. “Our hope is that through this partnership, we can continue to model best practices of how to support artists and therefore spearhead more spaces that are affordable and connected to the community.”

ArtPark Community Hub will also house a branch of the Denver Public Library, a food-and-beverage incubator, a public plaza and green space, sound studios, conference rooms, a tool library and workshop, and performing arts and event spaces.

“At RiNo Art District, we see art as a vital tool for building community and connecting people, and the ArtPark Community Hub could not have come at a more pivotal time,” Weil added. “Following a tremendously challenging year for so many, we are eager to provide the people who live and work in Five Points, Globeville, Cole and Elyria-Swansea with a gathering place that offers access to artistic expression and learning for all.”

Additional partners on the ArtPark Community Hub include [Denver Public Library](#), [Focus Points Family Resource Center](#), and the [City and County of Denver/Denver Parks and Recreation](#).

For more information about the project or to make a donation, visit www.rinoartpark.com.

About RiNo Art District

RiNo Art District is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit grassroots organization dedicated to fostering a welcoming, creative community where a diversity of artists, residents and businesses thrive. The district is inclusive of five historical neighborhoods: Globeville, Elyria-Swansea, Five Points and Cole. Over the last decade, RiNo Art District has helped form both a Business Improvement District (BID) and General Improvement District (GID) and a community arts educational nonprofit (Keep RiNo Wild) to support the local community. Together, the RiNo Art District family of organizations fund and support the Denver community through advocacy, infrastructure improvements, artist support, community programming, business support, and events. To learn more, please visit rinoartdistrict.org and follow on Facebook and Instagram at @rinoartdistrict and Twitter at @rinoart.

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