



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Art RiNo Festival Lights Up the Past with "The Art of Neon" Exhibition featuring Historic Denver Signs and Newly Commissioned Neon Sign for the Truss House

Four restored neon signs from Save the Signs headline a showcase of Denver's bright-lit history, with live glass-bending by JJ Bebout and hand-lettering demonstrations by Samuel Rupsa

Denver, CO — Art RiNo Festival brings a piece of Denver's neon-lit past back to life this October with ***The Art of Neon***, a live exhibition and demonstration series at the Truss House and Welcome Center Galleries.

The exhibition features four historic neon signs from shuttered Denver-metro businesses, each rescued, restored, and preserved by **Save the Signs**, a nonprofit dedicated to keeping the region's vintage signage from disappearing for good. Alongside the rescued signs, visitors will find a custom Truss House neon sign created by neon artist and historic preservationist **Jeffrey "JJ" Bebout**, along with a selection of historic Denver artifacts.

Save the Signs grew out of a photojournalism project **Corky Scholl** started in 2012 to document the neon and vintage signage disappearing along East Colfax Avenue—a visual record that, over time, turned into a hands-on effort to save the signs themselves.

On **Saturday, October 3**, the exhibition comes alive with two live demonstrations:

JJ Bebout, a self-taught neon artist and treasurer of Save the Signs, will lead live **neon glass-bending demonstrations** throughout the day. Bebout's path to neon started somewhere else entirely—he began as a poet and fiction writer, until a chance encounter with a documentary pulled him toward putting text into the physical landscape of American culture.

Samuel Rupsa, a Trinidad, Colorado-based sign painter, will be on-site all day hand-lettering custom paper signs for visitors by request, and will give a live demonstration of **chemical silvering**, the century-old process of turning plain glass into a mirror. Rupsa's studio, Hemlock Sign Co., specializes in rare historic techniques including reverse-glass gold leaf gilding and glue-chipped glass, and he works with Save the Signs to restore rescued signage across the state.

The Art of Neon is on view at the Truss House and Welcome Center Galleries throughout the Art RiNo Festival, with live demonstrations Saturday, October 3.

RiNO ART DISTRICT



Support for the commissioned Truss House neon sign is generously provided by the RiNo General Improvement District (GID).

[Press kit containing press release, graphics & photos here.](#)

Art RiNo Festival

October 2–4, 2026 | RiNo Art District, Denver

Details at rinoartdistrict.org/visit/art-rino

Art RiNo 2026

- **Friday, October 2 — [RiNo Eats](#)**
6–9 PM | 21+ | Ticketed, early bird tickets through September 14
- **Saturday, October 3 — [Art RiNo Festival](#)**
1–8 PM | All ages | Free with RSVP
- **Sunday, October 4 — [Beers Made By Walking](#)**
10 AM–12 PM: Guided nature walk | Free, all ages
2–4:30 PM: Beer tasting | 21+ | Ticketed, early bird tickets through September 14

Additional details, participating artists, restaurants, brewers, tickets, and programming can be found at rinoartdistrict.org/visit/art-rino.

All proceeds from ticketed events, including RiNo Eats and Beers Made By Walking, benefit the programs of RiNo Art District, a nonprofit bringing more art, creativity, free events and vital programs to the certified Creative District in service to the historic north Denver neighborhoods it overlays: Five Points, Cole, Globeville and Elyria-Swansea.

Art RiNo Festival is presented by KeyBank, with additional support from the RiNo Business Improvement District (RiNo BID).

About RiNo Art District

[RiNo Art District](#) (RAD) is a Denver-based nonprofit arts organization and one of Colorado's first state-certified Creative Districts, nationally ranked [#6 Best Arts District by USA Today](#) in 2026. Founded in 2005, RAD champions artists, creatives, and local businesses through programming, advocacy, and creative placemaking across the historic north Denver neighborhoods of Five Points, Cole, Globeville, and Elyria-Swansea. RAD works to keep diverse creative voices at the heart of the district's identity and future, cultivating a vibrant, inclusive, and enduring creative ecosystem where artists and communities thrive, with roots in north Denver, leadership across Colorado, and serving as a national model for artist-centered places.

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