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**RiNo Art District Announces New Round of Grants for Artists, Creatives and Small Businesses**

*RiNo Support Fund to offer grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,500*

**DENVER (March 16, 2021)** – [RiNo Art District](#), 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 a new round of micro-grant funding for artists, creators, and small businesses in the district through its RiNo Support Fund.

“Artists and small businesses are the creative and economic engines of this area and supporting them is at the heart of what we do as an organization,” said Tracy Weil, executive director of RiNo Arts District. “Last year dealt a huge blow to business for so many, and unfortunately things haven’t totally recovered in 2021, so we are grateful to once again be able to leverage our collective resources to offer the RiNo Support Fund and lend a helping hand to this community.”

The fund was created in 2020 to provide support to the community in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic in the form of micro-grants between \$500 and \$2,500. In total, RiNo Art District donated over \$200,000 to 170 artists and businesses in its first round of funding. Applications for the next round of funding are available now on [RiNo Art District’s website](#).

Among last year’s grant recipients is Thomas “Detour” Evans, a full-time creative whose murals can be seen throughout RiNo Art District.

“Anything and everything that was booked [last year] was canceled or pushed back,” Evans said. “As an artist, you never know when your next check is coming and to have everything disappear was really difficult.”

A grant from the RiNo Support Fund helped him pay rent and buy supplies for what work he could find.

“It alleviated some of the stress and anxiety and helped me feel more secure,” Evans said.

Managing stress and anxiety were among several concerns that John Maikowski of Transforming Creatives hoped to help address with the funding his organization received in 2020. His organization, which focuses on empowering creatives both professionally and personally, and invests in their mental and physical health, used the grant to establish an emergency micro-grant program for its own members.



“We’re so grateful because it literally put food on the tables of people in our community,” Maikowski said.

Money for this year’s RiNo Support Fund comes from the RiNo Business Improvement District and donations to the RiNo Art District. Applications for the fund are open to artists, galleries and small businesses currently in the RiNo Art District that demonstrate a need. Applications will be reviewed by committee. Filling out the application does not guarantee funding. Deadline for applications is April 4, 2021. To learn more about the fund and RiNo Art District’s efforts to support local artists, creatives and the small business community, please visit [www.rinoartdistrict.org/about/initiatives](http://www.rinoartdistrict.org/about/initiatives).

### **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](http://rinoartdistrict.org) and follow on Facebook and Instagram at @rinoartdistrict and Twitter at @rinoart.

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