



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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September First Friday Festival Returns to RiNo ArtPark with Local Art, Music and Makers

The free September 4 festival features the 20th anniversary Welcome Back exhibition, 12 local artists and makers, live music performance by French Kettle Station, and multiple food vendors

September First Friday Festival

WHEN: Friday, September 4, 5–9 PM

WHERE: RiNo ArtPark, 1900 35th St., Denver, CO

ADMISSION: Free

RSVP: <https://rinoartdistrict.multipass.com/first-friday-festival-september>

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Denver, CO — RiNo Art District's September First Friday Festival returns to RiNo ArtPark on Friday, September 4, bringing a free evening of local art, music, makers, food and community. The evening features the continued presentation of *Welcome Back*, [RiNo Art District's 20th anniversary exhibition](#), along with a new lineup of local artists and makers, live music by French Kettle Station, and food vendors throughout the ArtPark. Spanning the [RiNo ArtPark Gallery & Welcome Center](#) and the Truss House Event Center/Gallery, *Welcome Back* remains on view through September 12.

"September's First Friday offers a one-of-a-kind opportunity to experience RiNo's creative history, discover the artists shaping its future, and explore the unique businesses that make RiNo what it is today," said **Terry Madeksza, Executive Director of the RiNo Business Improvement District**. "It's a fitting way to celebrate the 20th anniversary while recognizing the artists and businesses that continue to shape RiNo."

Welcome Back is guest-curated by RiNo Art District co-founder Jill Hadley Hooper and emerging Denver curator Jonas Sanchez. Bringing together 58 local artists—from longtime cultural anchors to emerging and DIY-centered voices—the exhibition traces the artist-led, independent spirit that shaped the RiNo Art District from its earliest days and continues to propel its creative community forward.

[French Kettle Station](#) is the songwriting and synthesizer-based project of Denver musician Luke Thinnies, active in Denver's DIY community since 2011. Thinnies creates performances that explore the human condition through sound, songwriting, and cathartic movement. Thinnies leads GLOB, an underground DIY art space and experimental music venue located at 3551 Brighton Blvd, and next door to Squirm Gallery, the former home of now closed and legendary DIY space [Rhinocerosopolis](#),

RiNo ART DISTRICT



Thinnes' work represents a living expression of the fiercely independent, artist-built culture at the heart of the district.

A small lineup of local artists and makers will be featured in an outdoor marketplace, with handmade work including jewelry, ceramics, pottery, prints, home goods and more:

- **Beijos Brasil** — Handwoven jewelry, accessories and home goods made from native Brazilian golden grass by fair-trade artisans
- **Bone and Dagger Assorted Mercantile** — Bone- and botanical-themed illustrations on apparel, prints, pins, home goods and more
- **Decked Out Ceramics** — Hand-thrown and hand-painted ceramics, plus colorful ceramic jewelry
- **Squirrel Bird Pottery** — Functional handmade pottery designed for everyday use

Food will be available for purchase throughout the evening, with options including Indian homestyle food from Tikka N Tiffins, Mediterranean street food from B&D's Mediterranean Street Eats, and Italian ice, gelato and sorbetto from Repicci's Real Italian Ice & Gelato of Denver. *(Please note: participating artists and food vendors are subject to change.)*

Admission is free, and visitors who [RSVP](#) before **September 4** will receive **50% off their first drink at the festival**.

RiNo Art District's First Friday Festivals are presented by KeyBank, with major support from the RiNo Business Improvement District (RiNo BID). Every event supports local artists, makers and creative businesses that make the RiNo Art District a vibrant Creative District.

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.