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RiNo Art District and Denver Parks & Recreation to Celebrate Completion of New Community and Performance Art Venue

Ribbon cutting ceremony on June 22 marked RiNo's second phase of development in Arkins Park

DENVER – (June 22, 2023) [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, hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony with its partner, Denver Parks & Recreation (DPR), to celebrate the opening of a brand-new community and performing arts venue in [Arkins Park](#).

“This has been an amazing journey over 12 years,” said Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock. “This is the culmination of a lot of visionary people, a lot of imagining things that didn’t exist, a lot of thinking outside the box about how we could breathe life and energy into an area of Denver that had, quite frankly, been perennially overlooked and underinvested in. This is a powerful example of how we come together to use assets we already have to meet the needs of our community.”

The 4,000-square-foot adaptive reuse project is the result of years of advocacy by RiNo Art District through a series of first-of-their-kind public, nonprofit and private partnerships aimed at addressing community need.

“This community performance space is the result of countless conversations with our creative community and our neighbors about what they need and want from RiNo’s presence within Arkins Park,” said Charity Von Guinness, Executive Director for RiNo Art District. “We have an incredible concentration of creatives making experiential art here in Denver, but we lack affordable, beautiful places to share that art with the community. This new space will offer a highly flexible, affordable performance venue for a variety of programming and private events. The resources we’re creating here exemplify our desire to center art and artists in our work, empower Colorado’s creative community, expand access to the arts, and foster a symbiotic relationship between the business and creative community.”

With seating for up to 200 and standing up to 450 (counting both ground-floor and mezzanine), the space will offer maximum flexibility for Denver’s performing arts, nonprofits, and creatives and well as the broader community. Designed by [Tres Birds](#) and built by [Mark Young](#), the venue features a beautiful high-barreled wood ceiling, a modular seating stage and doors that open into the Arkins Park greenspace.

The public is invited to get a sneak peek of the new space on Saturday, June 24 when RiNo will host the first Art Market of the summer within Arkins Park. Staff will be on site to offer tours of the space to the public, and tickets are available now to for [“Good Bones,” an immersive theatre production from OddKnock Productions](#) taking place at 4:30pm and 7:30 p.m. in the space.



“Our mission as always is to help create beautiful and safe public spaces that enhance the wellbeing of residents and our environment through innovative programs, and the opening of this exciting community space embodies our goal,” said Happy Haynes, Executive Director of Denver Parks & Recreation. “It’s been exciting to work with RiNo Art District to bring this inclusive, public venue to life so Denverites can further explore the thriving arts scene we have in this community.”

The project was made possible through a unique partnership with DPR in which RiNo was responsible for the fundraising, build-out and management of the buildings within Arkins Park. The first phase of the project, which opened August 2021, houses a new branch of Denver Public Library, The Denver Zine Library, eight affordable artist studios managed by RedLine Contemporary Art Center, Alto Gallery, and the new location of Comal Heritage Food Incubator, which is coming to RiNo ArtPark through a partnership with Focus Points Family Resource Center.

Funding was provided by major donors including: McWhinney, Collegiate Peaks, the Gates Family Foundation, Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, Sonia Danielsén, JE Dunn, the RiNo Business Improvement District and General Improvement District, Boettcher Foundation, and VF Foundation.

To learn more, visit the [RiNo ArtPark](#) website for an ongoing list of performances and events in Arkins Park. Groups interested in using the new space for events or performances can reach out to Molly Paillet, Programs Director for RiNo Art District at molly@rinoartdistrict.org.

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](#).

About Denver Parks & Recreation

As stewards of a legacy park system, Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR) is dedicated to customer service and enhancing the health of residents and the environment through innovative programs and safe, beautiful, and sustainable places. The DPR system includes 30 recreation centers and over 20,000 acres of urban and mountain parkland including off-street trails, parkways, and natural areas. For more information, visit www.denvergov.org/parksandrecreation, check us out on [YouTube](#), like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

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