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RiNo Art District Elevates Two Team Members to Leadership Roles

John Deffenbaugh and Alye Sharp promoted to senior leadership team at arts nonprofit

DENVER – (Jan. 18, 2022 -) [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, announced today the promotions of long-time staff members John Deffenbaugh and Alye Sharp. Deffenbaugh, who has served as Projects Director for the past three years, is now the art district’s Senior Director of Strategy and Projects. Sharp has been named Deputy Director after leading the organization as the Community Outreach Director for the past six years.

“Both Alye and John have put their heart and soul into shaping the character of RiNo Art District,” said Tracy Weil, Co-Founder and Executive Director of RiNo Art District. “They have been invaluable in efforts ranging from championing vital infrastructure improvements and bringing our new ArtPark to life to bringing in exciting new programming for creatives of all ages and backgrounds. We look forward to the expanded impact they’ll have in their new leadership roles.”

As Senior Director of Strategy and Projects, Deffenbaugh will continue to oversee key initiatives for the district with a focus on accessibility, equity and sustainability. He will also assume administration of both RiNo’s Business Improvement District and its General Improvement District, which assess commercial and residential property to generate funding for projects, programming, and public infrastructure improvements the five historic neighborhoods that encompass the district. Drawing on more than 18 years of experience leading complex architectural, urban and creative design initiatives in the U.S. and U.K., Deffenbaugh will also lead the development of the second phase of [RiNo ArtPark](#), a new creative hub for innovation, education, small business, and community in the Five Points neighborhood.

As Deputy Director, Sharp will work closely with Weil to lead new and existing strategic partnerships between the district’s broad spectrum of stakeholders including established businesses, entrepreneurs, developers and visitors alike. Leading the organization’s outreach and engagement efforts at the city and state level, Sharp will also help to oversee RiNo’s programs and organizational strategy ensuring each collaboration honors its historic neighborhoods. Sharp brings extensive experience in the nonprofit arts sector, having worked with the Art District on Santa Fe, Centro Inc. and ArtWorks Cincinnati prior to joining RiNo in 2014.

“Building community and connecting people through art is at the heart of what we do at RiNo Art District,” Weil continued. “Alye and John are committed to making sure this creative district continues to thrive, and I couldn’t be prouder to work alongside such talented and passionate leaders.”

For more information on RiNo Art District, please visit: 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.

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