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THE CHAMBER Impact

May/Jun 2024

The Aurora Chamber's 2023 Award Recipients



The Aurora Chamber's 68th Annual Awards Banquet, "Under the Sea," was an aquatically colorful celebration, honoring 10 outstanding individuals and businesses for their commitment to the business community and to the community at large.

Left to Right, above:

- Aurora Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Naomi Colwell.
- Owner of Legends of Aurora Sports Grill Steve Sundberg. **Legends of Aurora Sports Grill received the Small Business of the Year Award**, for their commitment to community and to The Chamber – and for their delicious food, atmosphere, and "legendary" service.
- Principal of The Aurora Highlands Carla Ferreira. **The Aurora Highlands received the Arts + Business Connection Award**, for their efforts and



commitment to including inspirational art installations throughout the development – to encourage creativity, sustainability, positivity, and community.

- Colorado State Senator Rhonda Fields. **Colorado State Senator Rhonda Fields received the Community Leadership Award**, for her outstanding commitment to the citizens of Colorado, and her work in health and human services, education, and crime prevention.

- Sharlene Fairbanks-Kyte with Buckley Space Force Base. **Sharlene Fairbanks-Kyte received the Chamber Leadership Award**, for her longstanding – and outstanding – support of, and partnership with, The Chamber to help those stationed at Buckley Space Force Base to be an integral part of the Aurora community.

- Founder and Owner of TT Coaching With Results Chartashia Miller. **Chartashia Miller received the Ken Melcher Ambassador of the Year Award**, for her unwavering commitment as an enthusiastic and involved member of The Chamber's Ambassador Team – welcoming new members and supporting all members.

- CEO of DeNOVO Solutions, LLC, Danny Moore. **Danny Moore received the Business Person of the Year Award**, for his continued commitment through

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To see upcoming Chamber meetings
as well as Chamber member events –
[go to the calendar!](#)

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President's Letter

Dear Chamber Members,

As we stride towards the end of our fiscal year, I wanted to take a moment to extend my warmest greetings to every one of you, and to thank you for your unwavering dedication and support.

Our Chamber of Commerce stands as a testament to the vitality and resilience of our local business community, and it is an honor to serve as your president.

Reflecting on the past months, it's evident that our collective strength and collaboration have been instrumental in navigating through various challenges. Whether it's been adapting to new regulations, supporting one another during tough times, or innovating our approaches to business, each of you has played an integral role in upholding the vibrancy of our local economy.

I am excited about the opportunities ahead. Together, we



Naomi Colwell
President & CEO

have the power to shape our community's future - driving smart growth, fostering innovation, and championing inclusivity.

Our Chamber will continue to focus on initiatives that empower our members and enhance the local business environment. From networking events and educational workshops to advocacy efforts and community outreach programs, we are committed to providing you with the resources and support needed to thrive in today's dynamic marketplace.

I encourage each of you to stay engaged and actively participate in Chamber activities. Your involvement not only strengthens our collective voice but also enables us to better understand and address the needs of our diverse business community.

As we embark on this journey together, we need to remain steadfast in our commitment to collaboration, innovation, and excellence. By harnessing the power of unity and leveraging our collective talents, I have no doubt that we will continue to achieve remarkable things.

Let's make this next fiscal year one of growth, prosperity, and positive change.

ChamberBoard

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Kristi Kleinholz | Mesa Moving and Storage

CHAIR-ELECT

Tyrone Adams | Colorado Association of Realtors

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Brian Sowl | Nelnet

PAST CHAIR ONCE REMOVED

Chad Nielsen | Wagner Equipment

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Joel Boyd | Town Center at Aurora

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Col. Jamie Pieper | 140th Wing (Colorado Air National Guard)
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Michael Sheldon | The Aurora Highlands

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Sophia Bibbey | Director of Events
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Mitzi Schindler | Vice President of Communications

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Colorado Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTAC)
Six & Six, inc. | Incredible Newsletter Design
Great Western Printing, Inc. | Newsletter Printer

DON'T FORGET: "Every employee of a Chamber member is a member of The Chamber"
Please route this issue to your sales reps, account managers, marketing directors, HR and PR departments. You can also access each month's newsletter online at our website, www.aurorachamber.org, so you can forward it to every employee in your company!

THE CHAMBER'S
MISSION



The mission of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce is to give a voice to the business community and serve as an advocate for its members, creating a positive business environment that encourages their growth and long-term economic vitality

ChamberCommittees

An Inside Look

ARTS + BUSINESS CONNECTION

How the Colorado Rapids Collide with the Arts

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

By Mark Smith, PhotoSmith Colorado, and ABC Chair

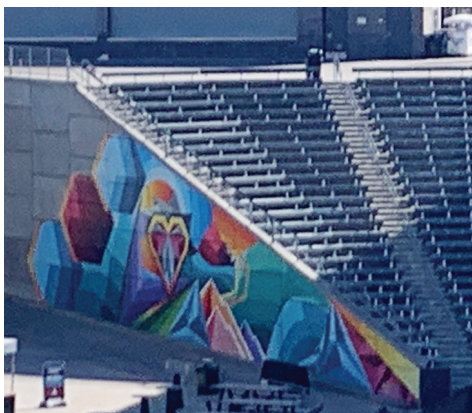
The March 2024 ABC meeting was a field trip to Dick's Sporting Goods Park to hear from Jordan Rothrock, senior director of Creative Brand for the Colorado Rapids. Although you might not think about soccer and art in the same breath, Rothrock enthusiastically shared how soccer and art collide both on and off the field through the branding and values of the Rapids.

He began by talking about how the Rapids position themselves as an outdoor lifestyle brand that plays soccer, competes for trophies, and cares about its community by telling Colorado stories. This is done by concentrating on the look and feel in the creation of the two jersey kits, as well as collaboration with local artists for murals at the stadium.

The jerseys are in cooperation with Adidas, and the Rapids title sponsor, UCHHealth. The kits are created in two separate years, one for home games and one for away games. Each kit supports initiatives and topics that matter to the Colorado community. The most recent kit supports mental health awareness, and champions Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – while representing the values of our state and



Jordan Rothrock, senior director of Creative Brand for the Colorado Rapids and Aurora Chamber Intern Syem Seltene at the March 5 Colorado Rapids ABC meeting.



Colorado Artist Pat Milberry's inspirational mural at the Colorado Rapids Stadium.

telling Colorado stories.

Rothrock shared that the Rapids have collaborations with local artists as a creative extension of the brand, that offer opportunities to reach different demographics – all while supporting key club initiatives.

The Rapids' partnership with local artist, Artmando Silva brought a new mural to the RiNo Art District, inspired by the euphoria soccer gives its fans. <https://www.artmandosilva.com/>

They also collaborated with local artist Pat Milberry for their 2023 Community Kit, called "New Day," which serves as a reminder to the community that there's always a new day on the horizon, and that the possibilities for a better tomorrow are infinite. Milberry also created an inspirational mural at the stadium.

Ascend Performing Arts, Home of the Blue Knights

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

By Mark Smith, PhotoSmith Colorado, and ABC Chair

ABC took an enlightening trip to visit Ascend Performing Arts, to learn about the many ways that the drum and bugle corps participants they work with are taught performing art skills in music and dance, to participate in a variety of marching bands. Ascend's CEO Mark Arnold and Director of Development Bliss Coleman shared the many ways the organization provides instruction and immersion in a unique form of art.

Youth from middle school to age 21 come to Ascend because they desire to perform at a level that is higher than what they are taught in schools, especially with reduced curriculums in some schools. Goals for the students go beyond simply music, building personal self-confidence and the self-assurance to perform in front of thousands of people.

In addition to the music, the performance includes choreographed movements and marching. These movements include individual groups within a larger group, all moving simultaneously in a far more intricate pattern



Bliss Coleman and Mark Arnold with Ascend Performing Arts in the warehouse, where the instruments are stored.



Blue Knights Uniform by local artist Anna Charney

than anything seen on a football field or parade - providing a meaningful connection with the audience. <https://youtu.be/Yd9L-BLWihM?si=odGbAF5VwcKHqXz->

During the summer, from July 1 to August 15, high school age youth, including some coming from outside the USA, perform throughout the country, including "Drums Along the Rockies." Auditions run from November through January, and those chosen begin rehearsals seven days a week at the end of May. Ascend works toward valuing individuals, while emphasizing that they need to depend on each other. This year's performance is July 13, 2024.

Ascend is proud to have been approached by the Denver Broncos to create an event at home games. The performance includes a drum line in the endzone, an event that has been adopted by a few other NFL teams.

Along with the art of music and dance, Ascend collaborated with local artist Anna Charney to create unique and artistic uniforms. <https://www.instagram.com/annacharneyart/reel/ChH3tpnyax/>

TRANSPORTATION

Centennial Airport and CASP

March 6, 2024

By Tim Harris, Horrocks Engineers, and Vice-chair of the Chamber Transportation committee

The Transportation Committee "took to the skies" in March, with presentations about Centennial Airport and Colorado Air & Space Port.

For Centennial Airport, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Lauren Wiarda, gave an overview of the airport and its operations. "Centennial is the #1 busiest general aviation airport in the nation with 362,000 operations in 2023 and provides an annual economic impact of \$2.5 billion," said Wiarda.

She shared that current initiatives include a transition to unleaded fuel for environmental and nearby resident health benefits; continued

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discussions about airport noise with nearby neighborhoods; and additional development of airport property. The airport is also conducting a study for the siting of a new traffic control tower. The airport stays highly active with charity and educational events throughout the year.

"Colorado Air and Space Port (CASP) is a general aviation airport with 115,000 operations in 2023," shared Jeff Kloska, executive director of CASP. "It is one of 14 designated spaceports in the U.S. and serves as a testing facility for several aerospace companies," he added.

Additionally, during 2024, Kloska shared that CASP will rehabilitate a taxiway and a taxi lane and continue discussions on increased development in coordination with the adjacent Rocky Mountain Rail Park.

E-470 and DEN, Partners and Plans

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

E-470 Public Highway Authority and Denver International Airport (DEN) were the subjects of the Wednesday, April 3 Transportation meeting, held at E-470.

E-470 Interim Executive Director Neil Thomson and Director of Public Affairs Jessica Carson, talked about the toll rate and reductions and adjustments implemented, including freezing ExpressToll and License Plate Tolls (LPT) rates in 2023-2024, based on the reduction of these rates in 2022. In 2018 and 2017 respectively, vehicle registration and highway expansion fees were eliminated.

Thompson talked about the importance of partnerships with the cities and counties that E-470 travels through, along with the priority of a commitment to safety on the highway.

DEN Executive VP and Chief Construction and Infrastructure Officer Jim Starling began his presentation with some impressive facts, including that DEN is the second-largest airport in the world, spanning 53 square miles, and that the airport has projected passenger

traffic of over 120 million by 2045.

He talked about DEN's Vision 100 accomplishments that involve the completion of the Great Hall program and addition of new gates. Starling also talked about Operation 2045, which focuses on maintaining existing assets and expanding infrastructure to accommodate future growth at the airport.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, EDUCATION, AND ENERGY (PUBLIC ISSUES)

Legislative Reviews and Chamber Positions

March and April 2024

The March and April Government Affairs meetings were focused on reviewing current legislation and providing position recommendations to the Chamber Board of Directors.

Husch Blackwell Strategies Managing Principal Micki Hackenberger and Government Affairs and Policy Professional Elizabeth Lo, and Contract Lobbyist Angie Binder, reviewed the bills, below. Each bill includes the committee's recommendation and the subsequent Aurora Chamber of Commerce position:

HB24-1008 Wage Claims Construction Industry Contractors (Reps. Duran & Froelich; Sens. Danielson & Jaquez Lewis) – *Passed House 3rds 4/19* **Oppose**

HB24-1014 Deceptive Trade Practice Significant Impact Standard (Reps. Weissman & Mabrey; Sen. Gonzales) – *In Senate Judiciary (laid over)* **Oppose**

HB24-1015 Workplace Suicide Prevention Education (Rep. Vigil; Sen. Michaelson Jenet) – *In House Appropriations* **Support**

HB24-1076 Purple Star School Program (Reps. Marshall & Weissman; Sen. Fields) – *In Senate Appropriations* **Support**

HB24-1097 Military Family Occupational Credentialing (Reps. Taggart & Weissman; Sen. Fields & Gardner) – *Signed by Governor Amend (Amendment to exempt realtors)*

HB24-1152 Accessory Dwelling Units (Reps. Amabile & Weinberg; Sens. Mullica & Exum) – *Passed Senate Local Govt 4/23* **Amend (Amendment to incentivize ADUs rather than require them)**

HB24-1156 Chamber of Commerce Alcohol Special Event Permit (Reps. Hartsook & Lindstedt; Sen. Smallwood) – *House concurred with Senate amendments* **v**

HB24-1157 Employee-Owned Business Office & Income Tax Credit (Reps. Lindstedt & Vigil; Sen. Bridges) – *In House Appropriations 4/25* **Support**

HB24-1175 Local Government Rights to Property for Affordable Housing (Reps. Boesenecker & Sirota/Sens. Winter & Jaquez Lewis) – *In Senate Local Government 4/25* **Oppose**

HB24-1230 Protections for Real Property Owners (Reps. Parenti & Bacon) – *On House 2nds (laid over)* **Oppose**

HB24-1236 Women Veterans Appreciation Day (Reps. Holtorf & Parenti; Sens. Pelton B. & Kirkmeyer) – *Passed Senate State Affairs 4/24* **Support**

HB24-1237 Programs for the Development of Child Care Facilities (Reps. Bradfield & Lukens; Sens. Marchman & Rich) – *In House Appropriations* **Support**

HB24-1260 Worker Freedom Act (Reps. Duran & Hernandez; Sen. Danielson) – *On House 2nds* **Oppose**

HB24-1304 Minimum Parking Requirements (Reps. Vigil & Woodrow/Sens. Priola & Hinrichsen) – *In Senate Local Government 4/25* **Oppose**

HB24-1313 Housing in Transit-Oriented Communities (Reps. Woodrow & Jodeh/Sens. Hansen & Winter) – *In Senate Local Government (laid over on 4/23)* **Oppose**

HB24-1325 Tax Credits for Quantum Industry Support (Reps. Valdez & Soper; Sens. Bridges & Baisley) – *In House Appropriations* **Support**

HB24-1330 Air Quality Permitting (Reps. Bacon & Willford/Sen. Cutter) – *In House Appropriations* **Oppose**

HB24-1339 Disproportionately Impact Community Air Pollution (Reps. Rutinel & Weissman/Sen. Winter) – *In House Appropriations* **Oppose**

SB24-020 Alcohol Beverage Delivery & Takeout (Sen. Roberts; Reps. Lindstedt & Pugliese) – *On House 2nds 4/25* **Support**

SB24-023 Hold Harmless for Error in GIS Database Data (Sens. Van Winkle & Bridges; Reps. Kipp & Taggart) – *Signed by Governor* **Support**

SB24-051 Adult Education (Sens. Zenzinger & Kirkmeyer; Reps. Kipp & Catlin) – *Signed by Governor* **Support**

SB24-074 Jurisdiction over United States Military Property (Sen. Gardner/Rep. Weissman) – *Sent to Governor* **Support**

SB24-081 Perfluoroalkyl & Polyfluoroalkyl Chemicals (Sen. Cutter; Reps. Kipp & Rutinel) – *Sent to Governor* **Amend (Amend the timelines)**

SB24-085 Sales & Use Tax Rebate for Digital Asset Purchases (Sens. Priola & Buckner; Reps. Parenti & Weinberg) – *In Senate Business, Labor, & Technology* **Support**

SB24-104 Career & Technical Education & Apprenticeships (Sen. Danielson) – *In House Appropriations* **Support**

SB24-106 Right to Remedy Construction Defects (Sens. Zenzinger & Coleman/Rep. Bird) – *Passed Senate 3rds* **Support**

SB24-109 Continue Colorado Veterans' Service-to-Career Program (Sens. Hinrichsen & Pelton B.; Reps. Hartsook & Ortiz) – *In Senate Appropriations* **Support**

SB24-165 Air Quality Improvements (Sens. Priola & Cutter/Reps. Rutinel & Garcia) – *In Senate Finance* **Oppose**



E-470 Director of Public Affairs Jessica Carson talks about projects and plans for the Public Authority Highway at the April 3 Transportation meeting.

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[SB24-166 Air Quality Enforcement – In Senate Finance \(laid over on 4/23\)](#) **Oppose**

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Celebrating Women Who Made History

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

The March 2024 Women in Business meeting was a celebration of Women's History Month. The guest speaker was Susan Fries, deputy community museums officer and director of the Center for Colorado Women's History. Fries spoke about some of her favorite females in Colorado's history, including the "Unsinkable" Molly Brown, survivor of the famous sinking of the Titanic.

The meeting was held at The Village Workspace, and attendees were treated to tea and pastries, generously provided by The District Credit Union.

WIB Social at Waldo's Chicken & Beer

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

In April, the Women in Business Committee held a social at Waldo's Chicken & Beer in Southlands. There were about 30 attendees at the event, including some gentlemen. The WIB committee's mission is to support women in business, and participation is not limited to women only. The group got to spend time in the sun on Waldo's patio space while enjoying some delicious food offerings – and successfully networking.



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Bingo and Networking at Legends of Aurora Sports Grill

Wednesday, March 13, 2024



Lauren Fusco, with the DoubleTree by Hilton Denver-Aurora, and an unidentified guest of The Chamber, working on their Business Bingo sheets at the YP Social at Legends of Aurora Sports Grill.



Susan Fries, deputy community museums office and director of the Center for Colorado Women's History talks about Colorado's historic women at the March 20 WIB meeting.

The Young Professional hosted a social at Legends of Aurora Sports Grill, complete with "Business Bingo" at Legends of Aurora Sports Grill on March 13. It was a great way to network, have some fun, and learn about Chamber businesses. The first attendee to completely fill the Bingo card, Chartashia Miller with TT Coaching with Results, got a gift cart to Legends.

It was an evening to remember – and possibly repeat in the future.

The April 10, 2024, Young Professionals' tour of the Cherry Creek Innovation Campus was cancelled and will be rescheduled.



Defense Council members receive an overview of Colorado State University Global at the CSU Spur.

DEFENSE COUNCIL

CSU Global at the CSU Spur

Thursday, March 28, 2024



The March Defense Council meeting was hosted by CSU Global and took place at the CSU Spur. CSU Global President Becky Takeda-Tinker, PhD, and Associate Vice Chancellor for the CSU Spur Campus Jocelyn Hittle, welcomed 100 members of the Defense Council.



CSU Spur, comprised of the Vida, Terra, and Hydro buildings, is a free educational destination with a focus on food, water, and health research and innovation. It is home to real science and research, and its doors are open to visitors to see it all happen.

CSU Spur has something for all – it's a laboratory, veterinary clinic, market, museum, art studio classroom, garden, and innovation center all in one. Visitors can watch dogs and cats in surgery, hear directly from the veterinarians performing the operations at Vida, walk the rooftop greenhouses at Terra, and watch professionals at Denver Water's new water quality lab at Hydro.

Council members also received military unit reports from Space Base Delta 2, Aerospace Data Facility Colorado, 140th Wing, Space Delta 4, HQ Air Reserve Personnel Center, Navy Reserve Center Denver, and the Colorado National Guard. Breakfast was sponsored by Door Dash.

HQ Air Reserve Personnel Center Thursday, April 25, 2024

April's Defense Council was hosted by Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center (HQ ARPC). Colonel Jason Knight, HQ ARPC Deputy Commander, talked about the numerous ways HQ ARPC serves its 1.3 million total force customers consisting of Air Force Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard and Retirees.

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Col Knight provides a HQ ARPC overview to Defense Council members.

HQ ARPC's current lines of effort are focused on optimization, innovation, resources, training, readiness, and manning. HQ ARPC was previously known as the Air Reserve Personnel Center, which was established in 1953 and opened its doors in 1954 at 3800 York Street in Denver. It was redesignated in 1965 and moved to the former Lowry Air Force Base in 1976. In 2011, they moved to their current location on Buckley Space Force Base.

Council members received military unit reports from Space Base Delta 2, Aerospace Data Facility Colorado, 140th Wing, Space Delta 4, Navy Reserve Center Denver, Combat Logistics Battalion 453, and the Colorado National Guard. Additionally, representatives from Senator Bennet's and Congressman Crow's offices provided legislative priorities impacting the military, veterans,

and their family members. Gold Star mothers Pam Stemple and Misi Moser shared information about the upcoming national convention in Colorado Springs. Pacific Dental Services sponsored the breakfast. ■



Gold Star mothers Pam Stemple and Misi Moser discuss the upcoming national convention in Colorado Springs.

Are you a Proud Leadership Aurora Graduate?

The 40th Anniversary celebration of the Leadership Aurora program is Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds and Park, 25690 E Quincy Ave, Aurora, CO 80016, 6-10 pm.



- Reconnect with your classmates
- Compete with other classes for the "most talented class ever" award
- Enjoy great entertainment, food, and drinks
- Visit exhibit area of organizations that have been impacted by Leadership Aurora class projects
- Stop by the class photo Wall of Fame

The theme is 1984 – and in keeping with the theme, individual tickets are \$84, and sponsorships are available. Proceeds from tickets and sponsorships support the Leadership Aurora program by providing scholarships and keeping tuition low and affordable. ■



AWARDS BANQUET [continued from page 1]

DeNOVO Solutions to safeguard IT systems for government and commercial clients.

- **Aurora City Manager Jason Batchelor** received the **Man of the Year Award**, for his thoughtful and exceptional leadership that led to his permanent promotion to Aurora City Manager in December 2023.
- **Chair of the Chamber Board of Directors, Kristi Kleinholtz** with Mesa Moving and Storage
- **Aurora City Councilwoman Françoise Bergan** received the **Woman of the Year Award**, for her outstanding dedication to The City of Aurora, and her contributions to the planning and economic development of the city in her role as Ward VI City Councilwoman since 2015.
- **President and CEO of Visit Aurora Bruce Dalton** received the **Business of the Year Award**, for their vibrant and genuine promotion of Aurora

as the premier destination for meetings, business, and leisure travel – and for their community-minded efforts to enhance experiences in Aurora.

- **Marlo Alston** received the **Humanitarian Award**, for her perseverance and work to support and champion Ready to Work Aurora in their efforts to help men and women who are homeless to rebuild their lives. (She was unable to attend the Awards Banquet because she was with family welcoming a new granddaughter.)

Thanks goes to the evening's sponsors:

Title Sponsors - Civitas and The Aurora Highlands; Corporate Sponsors - Community College of Aurora and Falck Rocky Mountain; Audio Visual Sponsors - Mesa Moving and Storage and Oakwood Homes; Silent Auction Sponsors - Amazon, Arapahoe County, and Door Dash; Centerpiece Sponsor - Donor Alliance; and Table Sponsors - 5Star Bank, Aurora Economic Development Council, Aurora Mental Health & Recovery, Aurora

Public Schools, Cherry Creek School District, Children's Hospital Colorado, City of Aurora - City Management, City of Aurora - Mayor and City Council, City of Centennial, Citywide/HTLF, DeNOVO Solutions, Denver International Airport, Fitzsimons Credit Union, Kaiser Permanente, Legends of Aurora Sports Grill, Northeast Transportation Connections, Pickens Technical College, US Bank, Visit Aurora, and Xcel Energy

And thank you to: Rick Crandall, our Master of Ceremonies; Katie Spencer with Katie Creative for the award winner videos; Ron Armijo with Wave Audio Visual for his A/V talents; Lauren Fusco, owner of ELEPH Succulent Boutique, for creating the beautiful centerpieces; The Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center for their hospitality; the generous silent auction donors; and the volunteers, who donated their time and enthusiasm to make it a great evening! ■

Ribbon Cuttings & Open Houses

Ribbon cuttings
mean business: **70 Jobs**



Ent Credit Union
18701 E Hampden Ave,
Aurora, CO 80013

Ent Credit Union celebrated their new location in Aurora, CO, kicked off by Ent Chief Engagement Officer Matt Gendron along with Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman and Aurora Chamber of Commerce President/

CEO Naomi Colwell. Also in attendance were numerous ENT staff, Aurora City Councilman Steve Sundberg and Chamber Ambassadors: BK Martin, Ent Credit Union; Chartashia Miller, TT Coaching with Results; Brian Weiher, Trusted Risk Advisor; Sanjay Tyagi, Schooley Mitchell of Denver; Katie Anthony, ADP; Jon Mize, Vasa Fitness; Deb Kirschbaum, Priority Properties, Inc; Barb Brinson, Job Store Staffing; Kristine Minty, Rex Environmental Testing and Consulting; Oma Mohamed; and Farouk Mohammed. (3/13/24) www.ent.com/our-locations/denver-region/seven-hills-service-center/



xfinity

Xfinity
2495 S Havana St, Aurora, CO 80014

It was a beautiful morning for a ribbon cutting on Friday, April 5, at the newest Xfinity Store by Comcast Aurora, CO - where customer service is their top priority! Left to right: Aurora Economic Development Council Director of Development Jonathan Woodward; City of Aurora Ward IV Councilwoman Stephanie Hancock; Xfinity Director of Indirect Sales Sam Garland; Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman; Xfinity Store Manager Gabe Aguilar; Xfinity Regional Manager Kobe Nguyen; and Aurora Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Naomi Colwell. (4/5/24) www.xfinity.com/local/co/aurora/2495-s-havana-street.html (800) 934-6489



CD's Wings

6710 S Cornerstar Way, Aurora, CO 80016

Congratulations to Dean and Jordann Copeland and their team at CD's Wings on their new location in Aurora! The event kicked off a weekend fundraiser event in support of Buckley Space Base, as well. This is the 2nd location, with a 3rd opening soon in Parker. In attendance were Owners Dean & Jordann Copeland - and their new twins - as well as The Aurora Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Naomi Colwell.

Chamber Ambassadors also showed up in force: Sanjay Tyagi, Schooley Mitchell of Denver; BK Martin, Ent Credit Union; Deb Kirschbaum, Priority Properties, Inc; Katie Anthony, ADP; Chartashia Miller, TT Coaching with Results; Oma Mohamed; and Farouk Mohammed. (3/27/24)

<https://lcdswings.com/aurora> (303) 993-8662





CCA Receives a Grant from RTD For Student Transit Rides

The Community College of Aurora's (CCA) Office of Student Advocacy, along with its Foundation, received a Transit Assistance Grant (TAG) of \$22,440 for ride ticket books.



This new grant, administered through Denver's Regional Transportation District (RTD), solidifies CCA's commitment to support individuals who need reliable transportation options to get to campus. It provides 816 standard 10-ride ticket books, each valued at \$27.50.

CCA President Mordecai Brownlee, EdD, acknowledged the grant's impact on creating equitable access. "On behalf of CCA, I want to express appreciation for those involved in selecting our institution to receive funding. Our students deserve the ability to attend our institution free from challenges, such as the lack of reliable transportation, that present barriers to their pursuit of economic mobility."

Senior Student Affairs Officer and Dean of Student Success, Reyna Anaya, PhD, expressed her enthusiasm for the program, stating, "By partnering with organizations such as RTD, we can eliminate stressors for students so they can remain focused on their educational and career goals."

"In the 2023 Basic Needs Assessment, 20 percent of students reported missing class or being late due to lack of transportation

to campus or between the CentreTech and Lowry campuses. This assistance helps close the gap in transportation security at CCA," said Megan Cuddihee Dempsey, assistant director, Office of Student Advocacy.

RTD set aside \$1 million for the TAG program. The program launched in response to the 2023 Systemwide Fare Study and Equity Analysis. The agency received 211 applications for TAG funding and awarded approximately 85 percent of applicants. In total, Denver RTD selected 181 organizations to receive a grant.

The Student Advocacy Office provides in-person, virtual, and phone meetings. For information, call 303-360-4771 or email deanofstudents.cca@ccaaurora.edu.

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Denver-Aurora Awarded for their Community Service

The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Denver-Aurora was awarded the O'Reach Award through their company, O'Reilly Hospitality at the annual companywide celebration.

The award was for Outstanding O'Reach Efforts in community services. The DoubleTree's outreach in 2023 included: Annual Toys for Tots Toy Drive and drop off center collecting and donating more than 140 toys; Four donation drives over



Left to right: Miranda Comer, regional director of operations, O'Reilly Hospitality; Darren Harralson, COO, O'Reilly Hospitality; Scott Turbow, general manager, DoubleTree by Hilton Denver-Aurora; and Tim O'Reilly, CEO, O'Reilly Hospitality.

the course of the year, providing supplies to a local elementary, warm clothes for immigrants, socks and underwear for a women's shelter, and a clothing drive for another shelter; Hosting two PB&J making contests, where the hotel team engages in a fun event, racing to see how many sandwiches with an apple in a bag can be made in 15 minutes. The winning team gets a prize, and the 450 lunch bags were delivered to the Denver Rescue Mission; and every Friday, employees are allowed to wear jeans – but must pay at least \$1. Every six months donations are giving to a non-profit. 2023 donations were given to the Denver Dumb Friends League, and an immigrant center for Venezuelans – through a Venezuelan employee of the hotel. ■

Niagara Bottling Donates to the Salvation Army



On April 17, 2024, Niagara Bottling's Niagara Cares program provided community service by donating bottles of water to the Salvation Army during the Feed the Children campaign. The Niagara Cares program is committed to giving back to the community, through volunteering, water donations, disaster relief and more.

MemberContributions

Aurora Water can help you save water and \$\$s – whatever size your property is!

Aurora Water has the programs, tools, and knowledge to help reduce overhead, which is good for your bottom line. We'll work with you to identify areas for greater efficiency indoors and outdoors for your Aurora Business.

Grass Replacement Incentive Program (GRIP)

Aurora Water incentivizes the conversion of water-guzzling turf/grass to water-wise landscapes through our Grass Replacement Incentive Program (GRIP). Water-wise landscapes are attractive, lower maintenance, save water, and withstand drought. Visit: Auroragov.org/GRIP for more information and a GRIP Manual. Contact mhopkins@auroragov.org to discuss project scope.

Outdoor Water Assessments

Aurora Water's experts will troubleshoot your irrigation (sprinkler) system and give you the necessary information to maximize its efficiency. An emailed report detailing system issues found and recommendations is provided post-assessment. Assessments are offered June through September. Request an outdoor water assessment for your property: Auroragov.org/WaterAssessment

Indoor Water Assessments

Maximize the efficiency of your water use with an indoor water assessment. A water

conservation specialist will come to your property and provide a free assessment. Assessments include checking for leaks, equipment/fixture efficiency review, and recommendations. Contact brsmith@auroragov.org to request an indoor water assessment.

Xcel Energy and Aurora Water: Partners in Energy

Aurora Water and Xcel Energy are making the transition to a more efficient building easy by offering a joint assessment. Maximize your benefits by participating in both programs so you can gain the greatest utility bill savings, decreased need for maintenance, and an increase in tenant and customer satisfaction. For an energy and water assessment for your building, contact brsmith@auroragov.org and mention a dual assessment.

See additional programs and resources, including irrigation and toilet rebates at Auroragov.org/Conservation. ■



An example of water-wise landscapes through Aurora Water's Grass Replacement Incentive Program (GRIP).



AURORA
WATER

How to meet Aurora's data demand

by Scott Harry, external affairs lead for Crown Castle

The demand for data is growing exponentially in Aurora and throughout the United States.

Key to meeting this demand is building wireless broadband communications infrastructure. This will be achieved through a combination of towers, broadband nodes, and fiber. Smaller than traditional cell phone towers, broadband nodes can attach to existing poles and expand coverage and network capacity.

Roughly 400 broadband nodes are going up in Aurora as part a nationwide effort to meet this growing need. Broadband nodes are small, low-powered nodes — typically installed on existing infrastructure like



Scott Harry

streetlamps — that provide better service by relieving the strain on already existing infrastructure.

The way we live, work, and learn is fundamentally changing. Covid-19 accelerated an existing shift to virtual environments, which is having lasting impacts beyond the pandemic. To ensure people have access to connect to essential services, the US will need to bolster

connectivity and capacity, which will require building a robust wireless broadband network connected to fiber.

Wireless broadband also means new jobs. The telecommunications industry will invest billions of dollars in upgrading wireless

infrastructure in communities across the country, which will create millions of jobs and lead to a faster growing economy.

Just like airports, railroads, and highways generations ago, cutting-edge wireless broadband communications infrastructure is what modern communities like Aurora need to stay competitive — today and in the future. ■

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Scott Harry has been working at Crown Castle for nearly 10 years managing government affairs in the Rocky Mountain region along with other programmatic and management positions. As the External Affairs Lead for the Rock Mountain Region, Mr. Harry works with elected officials and government staff, as well as business and social leadership to shape policies that help the communications industry bring technology to the public.

AmbassadorSpotlight

BK Martin, Business Development Specialist with Ent Credit Union

"I am not just a Colorado Native, I am an Aurora Native," says BK Martin with enthusiasm.

Growing up in Aurora, Martin went to Smoky Hill High School, where he took an accounting class and decided to apply at a local credit union.

"Funny, but my involvement with The Chamber was a bit forced in the beginning," says Martin. "My Credit Union boss insisted that I do some networking, but since the Realtor Associations and such were claimed by my coworkers – my boss suggested The Chamber. I begrudgingly went onto the calendar and found the most fun thing I could: A Young Professionals Happy Hour at Bad Daddys! I showed up and was hooked."



BK Martin

Martin has been a member of The Chamber for many years and has been an Ambassador nearly as long. Martin was honored as a 2019 Ken Melcher Ambassador of the Year at the 2020 Annual Awards Banquet. "Ambassador of the year is something I hang my hat on, but mostly my career achievement is being a connector for our community," says Martin.

Once I realized the value I got from The Chamber, I knew it was important for me to share that value with others. I started one-on-ones with people I met at Business After Hours and at Ribbon Cuttings.

Word got around that I was doing that, and Chance Horiuchi – who worked at The Chamber at the time – told me I should apply to be an ambassador because that's what they do – and I would meet more

people that shared my passion for The Chamber.

The list is long for the many ways The Chamber has helped me personally and professionally – from connections to information – with a side of business advocacy. "The value it has given me over the years cannot be understated," says Martin.

Martin says that he bleeds Chamber, and as a serial networker, enjoys his involvement with the Ambassadors, Lead By Example, and The Young Professionals. He is also in the 2024 Leadership Aurora class, and appreciates learning more about his favorite city.

Martin is married and has four children. In his spare time, Martin's hobbies include darts, cricket, and AI, and he is looking forward to a family trip this year – and as always – meeting new people. ■

MemberRenewals

Aurora Family YMCA at Wheatlands
Aurora Gateway Rotary Club
Aurora Interfaith Community Services
Aurora Singers
Bear Mortgage, Inc
Beck, Payne, Frank & Piper, PC
Boxer Property
Bradley M Pierce Legal Services, Inc
Cambria Hotel Denver International Airport
Citywide Banks
Colorado Access
Colorado Enterprise Fund
Colorado Technical University
Comcast
Community College of Aurora
Concorde Career College
Corporex Colorado, LLC
Courtyard by Marriott Denver Aurora
DeNOVO Solutions, LLC
Denver International Airport - DEN
DJCA/FGR
E-470 Public Highway Authority
Falck Rocky Mountain
First Command Financial Services
General Dynamics Information Technologies
Gone for Good
Grand Canyon Education
Guardian Storage
Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Club

HomeSmith Real Estate
Homewood Suites by Hilton
Denver International Airport
Infiniti of Denver
Jenkins Restorations
JJ Custom Openings, LLC
Kaiser Permanente
Landtech Contractors, Inc
Leidos
Lincoln Tech
M & M Auto Reconditioning, Inc
Metropolitan Building Maintenance, Inc
My Electric Home
One Digital
Padgett Business Services
Parkside Animal Health Center
RE/MAX Leaders - David J Barber
Rex Environmental Testing and Consulting
RTB Technologies
Sewald Hanfling Public Affairs
Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital
SYLO Hotel Denver, a Ramada by Wyndham
The Aurora Highlands
UCHealth
UCHealth ER - Commerce City
US Bank - Aurora Main
V-Esprit Active Adult Community
Westside Investment Partners
Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum

NewMembers

4PRO Restoration Solutions
ADP
Blackwatch, LLC
Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver
CD's Wings
Coldwell Banker – The Alexander Group
Crossroads Pediatric Dentistry
David Gruber
El Pollo Loco
Golden West Plumbing, Heating,
Air Conditioning, & Electrical
Grandma's Handyman Service, Inc
HandiTask
Heirlooms Antique Mall
Iron Sharp Community Foundation
La Morena Family 2
Medline
Mortgage First
Party Pretty, LLC
Pure Barre Southlands
Qualified Listeners Corp
RA Bonds Enterprises, LLC
Six Capital Brewing
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