



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **RiNo CELEBRATES SUCCESS OF POP-UP PARK WITH COMMUNITY**

**Denver, CO** – After several months of crowdfunding, fundraising, and volunteerism, RiNo celebrated the success of their pop-up park on Friday, Oct 26. The park, known as Boxyard Park, features a dog park, climbing wall, art, seating and tables, food trucks, and special event programming.

“We are beyond thrilled to finally have this park fill a void of public space in RiNo,” said RiNo Art District President, Jamie Giellis. “This park posed so many exciting opportunities to try something new and really engage with our community to make it a reality.”

Boxyard Park, which started with RiNo Resident Chris Riedl’s vision for an engaging community activation in the vacant flood catchment across from his condo, would not have been possible without community buy-in. The park is the product of community fundraising, local businesses donations, in-kind services and planning, and volunteer days.

“I always knew this area had such great potential and seeing it come to life has been such an amazing experience,” said Riedl. “We are so excited to deliver a place for the community and could not express our appreciation and gratitude enough to our sponsors who contributed and trusted us to bring this to fruition.”

During the initial four months of the park’s existence, visitors to the park enjoyed free outdoor yoga classes, various celebrations, art installations and exhibitions, poetry readings, classes, live music concerts, and a public space to relax amidst a sea of concrete in the once industrial district of North Denver. RiNo also partnered with the Denver Day Works to employ members of the homeless community to maintain the park.

“This park would not be possible without the blood, sweat, tears, and donations of this amazing community,” said RiNo community outreach director, Alye Sharp. “Our community joined together for this idea and came out to build this space from the ground up.”

The RiNo Art District hopes this pilot activation garners support from the City of Denver to adopt the park as an official part of the Parks and Recreation parks system. Presently, there are no public parks within the RiNo Art District boundaries, though one is slated to begin construction next year.

“Leveraging underutilized public areas supports Denver Parks & Recreation’s mission to create dynamic spaces, programs, and amenities,” said Scott Gilmore, Deputy Executive Director of Denver Parks and Planning. “Boxyard Park is an excellent example of new and creative uses for publicly-owned spaces. As part of The Outdoor Downtown plan, we’re committed to participating in partnerships that enable the community to activate areas that positively impact downtown neighborhoods.”



The park will remain popped-up until the end of November, at which time RiNo will request an extension to continue programming and activation of the space. For a full schedule of programs and list of sponsors, visit [www.boxyardpark.com](http://www.boxyardpark.com).

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### **About the RiNo Art District**

The RiNo Art District is a distinctive area of north Denver that is inclusive of four historical neighborhoods: Globeville, Elyria-Swansea, Five Points and Cole. The District started as a grass roots movement by local artists that wanted to connect the arts organizations in the area. Today, RiNo is comprised of three organizations, The RiNo Art District (the nonprofit arm, registered neighborhood organization, and state certified creative district), the RiNo Business Improvement District (BID), and the RiNo General Improvement District (GID). Together, these organizations fund and support the area through advocacy, infrastructure improvements, artist support, community programming, business support, and events. To learn more, visit [www.rinoartdistrict.org](http://www.rinoartdistrict.org).