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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH THE LODO DISTRICT, INC.**

*The Season Kicks Off with LoDo Aglow: Scenes of the Season*

DENVER, CO (November 16, 2009)—This holiday season experience winter in a whole new light with LoDo Aglow, a window design contest sponsored by Great Western Bank and the LoDo District, Inc. The unveiling will take place on Friday, November 27, 2009 in coordination with the Grand Illumination of the City.

LoDo Aglow, will light up the streets of Lower Downtown throughout the holiday season until late January. Local business owners, designers and art students have been given the chance to let their imaginations run wild and create holiday themed window art to brighten LoDo. The entries will be reviewed by a panel of guest judges who will choose the winners based on the originality and presentation of the design. The winners will be announced the week of December 14. The panel of judges include Bill Husted, Elana Ashanti Jefferson and Penny Parker of the Denver Post, Patty Calhoun of The Westword, Deborah Jordy Executive Director of the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts, Kendall Peterson the Public Art Manager at the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs, Lonnie Hanzon of the Museum of Outdoor Arts and Ivar Zeile the owner and director of Plus Gallery.

The LoDo District, Inc. is excited to support a variety of LoDo businesses during the LoDo Aglow window design contest. Participating businesses include 1515 Restaurant, bd's Mongolian Barbeque, Bouquets, Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, The Celtic Tavern, Dixons Downtown Grill, Elixir Mind Body Massage, Great Western Art Gallery, Great Western Bank, The Keg Steakhouse and Bar, Indox Services, JohnstonWells Public Relations, LoDo's Bar and Grill, Luxe Salon, Optique of Denver, Organixx Restaurant, The Oxford Club Spa Salon Fitness Center, The Oxford Hotel, Players, Rita L. Gutierrez Insurance Agency, Rockmount Ranch Wear, Scream Agency, Scribbles, Shears Adkins Architects, Translations Gallery, UMB Bank and Zolarium Tanning Studio.

"I feel that LoDo Aglow will add to the charm of the neighborhood for the holiday season," explained Judy Hagler, owner of Translations Gallery. "As a business new to the neighborhood we are looking forward to participating in the event."

One of the best ways to experience the decorations throughout LoDo will be through one of the special Holiday Walking Tours. The LoDo Walking Tour Coordinator, Kevin Rucker will have two tours throughout the holiday season, an all ages tour and a 21 and up tour. The all ages tour will take place December 2, 9, 16 and 23 and January 6 and 13 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. and the cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, age 13-17 and LoDo District, Inc. members, children 12 and under are free. The 21 and up tour will take you on a festive walk through the neighborhood with two complimentary appetizers and the opportunity to purchase cocktails. The tours take place December 5, 12 and 19 and January 9, 16 and 23 from 3:00-6:00 p.m. and the cost is \$20 a person and \$15 for college students, seniors and all LoDo District, Inc. members.

The Grand Illumination of the City is an annual celebration that unofficially jump starts the holiday season, lighting Denver from Union Station to the City and County Building. On Friday, November 27, there will be a series of events taking place around the city, including the lighting of Union Station. The festivities at Union Station commence at 6 p.m. and include model trains, snacks from LoDo restaurants, carolers, a Children's Museum crafts table and a special appearance by Dinger Claus, the Colorado Rockies mascot. Shortly after 6:30 p.m., Union Station will be illuminated by floodlights, accenting its unique historic details and eye-catching tree in front. Following the Grand Illumination of Union Station take a walk into the basement of historic Union Station and experience the unique trains of the Colorado Society of Model Railroaders who will be open from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

During the Grand Illumination, brochures with a map and information about LoDo Aglow and other LoDo holiday activities will be given to patrons. These brochures will also be available at select hotels around the city, the Convention and Visitors Bureau and Denver International Airport until late January.

LoDo Aglow is sponsored by Great Western Bank, Mercury LDO and LoDo District, Inc.

**-DIGITAL IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST-**

**About LoDo District, Inc.:**

Founded in 1988, in Denver's birthplace, LoDo District, Inc. is a membership organization that supports historic lower downtown's (LoDo), unique historical, cultural and retail neighborhood, through marketing, education and advocacy. LoDo District, Inc. is committed to striking a balance between growth and preservation throughout the neighborhood.

For more information please visit: [www.lodo.org](http://www.lodo.org).

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