

# OLD. NEW. NOW.

News of LoDo District, Inc. Denver, Colorado

Fourth Quarter 2009

LoDo District, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 public purpose organization created to support and promote the Lower Downtown Historic District and mixed-use neighborhood.

## Art Galleries Return to LoDo

By Sandra Wick Mulvany and Ellen Wilensky

You may have noticed an emerging trend in LoDo - art galleries, once prevalent in LoDo, are relocating back to our neighborhood. Among others, Translations Gallery and David B. Smith Gallery have recently returned to LoDo after having set up shop in the Sante Fe Art District.

Judy Hagler, owner of Translations Gallery, says that she explored different areas of Denver for her gallery's move, but once she found the right space in LoDo, the "decision was simple." Translations is located on Wazee Street in what she calls the "best area for art downtown," just across from Robischon Gallery and the Center for Visual Art and next door to Visions West Gallery. She notes that Translations received a warm welcome from all of the neighbors and is currently playing an important role in the revival of the LoDo Art Walk. According to Judy, "the history of the area combined with prestigious galleries, great restaurants and Coors Field makes it an ideal location for our gallery."

David Smith, owner of the David B. Smith Gallery, moved back to LoDo because "it was the right time to evolve and reach out to a new audience that might otherwise not be familiar with the cutting edge contemporary work that we show." David B. Smith Gallery is also located on Wazee Street, right in the heart of LoDo. David highlights all that LoDo has to offer stating, "our artists and gallery collectors frequently visit from outside of Colorado and it is convenient to be located in an area that can offer a diverse range of

culture and hospitality." Several other galleries are looking to move into the LoDo area as well.

Jim Robischon, LoDo property owner and owner of the Robischon Gallery, which has been in the neighborhood for many years, agrees with David Smith that LoDo has the ability to attract travelers, out-of-state buyers and high-end clientele. He believes the current resurgence of art spaces in LoDo will continue as many galleries are "looking for a more upscale location." Robischon explains, "galleries need people of refinement and culture. In Denver, those people do not stray too far from locations like LoDo."

Although the trend may be based on numerous factors, there is no doubt that our historic LoDo area has lots to offer to art galleries as well as other businesses. And one thing is clear, locals and tourists benefit from the movement of galleries back to LoDo. This holiday season, why not take the opportunity to explore some of the great galleries in and near LoDo, including LoDo District members such as + Gallery? Though not actually in LoDo, this member gallery is putting on a blockbuster show for the holidays. According to gallery owner Ivar Zeile, "The Big Idea," is "an installation of epic proportions

that will push the dialogue on the making and selling of art to new levels." Don't miss this ground breaking exhibit from local artist Colin Livingston. Other LoDo member galleries are putting on equally impressive holiday shows so be sure to visit the Center for Visual Art, David B. Smith Gallery, David Cook Galleries, Great Western Art Gallery, Robischon Gallery, Translations Gallery, Visions West Gallery, and William Matthews Gallery this holiday season. With numerous opportunities to enjoy art in LoDo, there is bound to be a specific gallery or art collection that will please both art enthusiasts and novices alike.



## LoDo Member Gallery Exhibits November-January

### David B. Smith Gallery

1543 A Wazee St. - November 21-December 26  
Katherine Guillen, Andrea Offermann & Yoko Tanaka  
(opening reception on Saturday, November 21st from 7-10 p.m.)

### + Gallery

2501 Larimer St. - Through November 28, "This too shall pass" • New Paintings by Jenny Morgan • December 4 - January 15, "The Big Idea" • New mixed media installation by Colin Livingston

### Robischon Gallery

1740 Wazee St. - November 7-January 2, Solo Exhibitions by Jessica Stockholder and John McEnroe

### Great Western Art Gallery

1455 Curtis St. - December 4 - 5, Holiday Miniature Show Reception

### Visions West Gallery

1715 Wazee St. - November 12-December 14, "Duke Beardsley and Other Western Adventures" by Duke Beardsley - December 19, Holiday Show "Jingle" Cookies and Treats (12-5 p.m.)



## LoDo DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS

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LoDo District, Inc. would like to thank the following retiring board members for their service:

Amy Harmon  
 Mike LaMair

## LoDo Cares Holiday Efforts



By Jim Theye  
 LoDo Cares Coordinator

It is hard to believe that the holidays are once again approaching. That signifies that LoDo Cares will be in full swing, particularly at the Barth Hotel where the Holiday Dinner and the Barth Hotel Gift Program help make the difference for the 62 elderly and disabled residents.

The holiday dinner, to be held on December 16, is a traditional feast, donated warm and ready to serve by LoDo's remarkable restaurants. Please support these 2009 participants: Vesta Dipping Grill, The Keg, The Celtic Tavern, Gumbos, Jax Fish House, Dixons, McCormick's, The Tavern Hospitality Group, and the City Bakery.

The gift program is run by a crew of LoDo's Young Professionals and other volunteers who raise donations, purchase and wrap the gifts. A volunteer Santa arrives Christmas morning to the delight of the Barth residents. This is entirely a community effort.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

by Christina Pfitzinger



As the holiday season officially kicks off in Denver on November 27 with the Grand Illumination of Union Station at 6:00pm, the storefronts of LoDo will be brought to life with Lodo Aglow: Scenes of the Season a winter window display throughout the neighborhood which is worthy of a night-time tour. Take advantage of the window displays and stroll through the neighborhood on a Holiday Historic Walking tour, sponsored by the LoDo District, Inc. The festivities continue into December with the Parade of Lights produced by Downtown Denver Events on December 4th and 5th. While Santa Claus may steal the show in the parade, there will be plenty of locals in the spotlight as merchants hold holiday sales, offer in-store promotions and other activities.

This year, in partnership with the Mile High Business Alliance and local community organizations, LoDo District is supporting Buy Local Week from November 30 to December 6 to raise awareness of the role of local business on our economy and increase the economic impact of holiday spending. There's no place like home for the holidays, so this holiday season let local retailers delight you by offering gift ideas to fit any budget.

Take a little time out of your frantic holiday schedule and experience shopping outside your door step with merchandise that is infused with local heritage and can't be found anywhere else. Help keep the entrepreneurial spirit alive by shopping and dining locally. Statistics demonstrate that the money spent at local businesses is circulated within the community two to five times more than when spent at a national chain. By choosing to support locally owned businesses, you help maintain LoDo's diversity and distinctive flavor.

## LoDo DISTRICT NEW MEMBERS

Scribbles	Andrew Pickering	The MacSpa
Style Warrior	Andrea Ackerman	Mangiamo Pronto!
Colorado Promotional Distributors	Mark Wilkins	Clinica Tepeyac
Michael S. Benoit	Rita L. Gutierrez	Levi Reeves
Great Western Art Gallery	Insurance Agency Inc.	
Jennifer Rosenthal	Highland United	
	Neighbors, Inc.	

I encourage you to consider joining our efforts and support the LoDo Cares program, which has been brightening the lives of Barth residents for the past 18 years. Your donations of \$10 to \$25 (or more!) are entirely tax deductible, and 100% goes directly to improve the experience of those who live, work and play in LoDo and surrounding neighborhoods. To make a donation, please mail your check to the LoDo District office or drop it by Kentwood City Properties at the corner of 17th and Wynkoop Streets.

I am happy to report that LoDo Cares has grown beyond just a holiday effort. In addition to underwriting seasonal events at the Barth, we will work in 2010 to support environmental projects like recycling, improvements at the Children's Playground, and efforts to bring more great art and art galleries to LoDo.

Happy holidays, and thanks for your continued support and participation!



# FACES OF LODO



## IMA of Colorado

Meet Marcia Benshoof, President of IMA of Colorado. Even though Marcia has only been with IMA for four months, she will tell you that "Denver is her town!" As a fourth generation Colorado native, Marcia is thrilled to be back working in LoDo, and she remembers when our little neighborhood "wasn't such a snazzy place." Marcia fondly recalls visiting LoDo over the years with family and friends as the area transformed from a warehouse district to the booming center of commerce and culture it is today.

IMA is a risk management, insurance services and employee benefits solutions company that has been a LoDo neighbor since moving to the sixth floor of the Millennium Building at 17th and Wazee in 2000. IMA has a strong local presence and serves clients domestically and internationally as the 13th largest independently owned retail insurance broker in the U.S.

Marcia takes advantage of IMA's LoDo setting to improve the health and wellness of employees. She offers a monthly "walk with the Prez" as a chance for employees to explore the neighborhood on foot to get a little exercise along with access to senior management. She also coordinated IMA's "Peddle with the Prez" and "Cycle with the CEO," a healthful bike ride through LoDo celebrating Bike to Work Day.

IMA takes pride in its community involvement, and IMA associates contribute more than 3,000 volunteer hours each year while serving on more than 30 non-profit boards (including the Board of the LoDo District, Inc).

Get to know Marcia and other Faces of LoDo. Call 303-628-5428 for membership information.

## LoDo Aglow

by Jeannie Wert



Experience winter in a whole new light this holiday season, with LoDo Aglow, LoDo District, Inc.'s window design contest, *sponsored by Great Western Bank*.

Many of the street level windows will be decorated with holiday and winter scenes that will be sure to

transform LoDo into a winter wonderland. Businesses, students and design professionals are participating with the aim of winning the best decorated window in each of their respective categories. The themed windows will be unveiled on Friday, November 27, the night of the Grand Illumination of Union Station and last through the Stock Show on Sunday, January 24, 2010.

One of the best ways to experience the decorations throughout LoDo will be through one of our special Holiday Walking Tours. Take a stroll through the neighborhood while visiting the decorated windows and learning about some of LoDo's secrets and holiday traditions. For more information on all the festivities visit [lodo.org](http://lodo.org).



## The Grand Illumination



On Friday, November 27, festivities for the Grand Illumination of Union Station will 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., Denver Union Station will be colorfully illuminated. Following the Grand Illumination visit the basement of historic Denver Union Station and experience the unique trains of the Colorado Society of Model Railroaders which will be open from 7-9 p.m.

## Celtic Tavern Hosts Benefit for MaxFund

Scotch, cigar and animal lovers will mingle on Sunday, December 6 from 5-10 p.m. at the Celtic Tavern, 1801 Blake Street, to benefit the MaxFund Animal Adoption Shelter. The MaxFund is a no-kill animal shelter that rescues, nurtures and re-homes both healthy and special-needs pets.

Help our furry friends find a home for the holidays by sampling an assortment of scotches, bourbons, Irish whiskies, rums and cigars. Hot appetizers and a roast carving station will complement the libations. Each attendee will receive a cigar which may be enjoyed or donated to soldiers serving in Iraq.

Admission: \$125.00 per person in advance, \$150.00 at the door. Call (303)308-1795 for more information or visit [www.celtictavern.com](http://www.celtictavern.com).

## LoDo Aglow Participants

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Rita L. Gutierrez Insurance Agency/State Farm Insurance | 16. Translations Gallery                   |
| 2. UMB Bank  | 17. Organixx Restaurant                    |
| 3. LoDo's Bar and Grill                                    | 18. Shears Adkins Architects               |
| 4. The Celtic Tavern                                       | 19. The Oxford Club/Spa                    |
| 5. Optique of Denver                                       | 20. Scream Agency                          |
| 6. Dixons Downtown Grill                                   | 21. Colorado Housing and Finance Authority |
| 7. Rockmount Ranch Wear                                    | 22. Great Western Bank                     |
| 8. Great Western Bank                                      | 23. JohnstonWells Public Relations         |
| 9. The Oxford Hotel  | 24. 1515 Restaurant                        |
| 10. Indox Services   | 25. Scribbles                              |
| 11. Bouquets   | 26. The Keg Steakhouse & Bar               |
| 12. Blake Street Dental                                    | 27. Luxe Salon                             |
| 13. Players  | 28. Zolarium Tanning Studio                |
| 14. bd's Mongolian Grill                                   |  |
| 15. Elixir Mind Body Massage                               |  |

## OLD.NEW.NOW. NEWSLETTER SPONSORS



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### LoDo DISTRICT SPONSORING MEMBERS

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Dixons Downtown Grill	Hines	Oxford Hotel	
Downtown Denver News	Kentwood City Properties	The PC Whisperer Inc.	

### GET INVOLVED!

**Make a Difference.  
Have Fun!**

LoDo District, Inc. is a membership-supported organization with all levels of involvement available. Want to make a difference? Have fun? Fill out the following and mail it in.

Yes! Yes! Yes! I want to be a member.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Call me at \_\_\_\_\_

or email me \_\_\_\_\_

### LoDo EVENTS

- November 27: DUS Grand Illumination, 6 p.m.  
LoDo Aglow Window Displays: continuing throughout the season  
Society of Model Railroaders (Denver Union Station Basement): 7-9 p.m.  
*Our Travels on Trains During the Holiday Season*
- December 6: MaxFund Benefit: 5-10 p.m. Celtic Tavern, 1801 Blake Street
- December 12: Society of Model Railroaders (Denver Union Station Basement): 12-3 p.m.  
*Favorite Trains from our Members*
- December 25: Society of Model Railroaders (Denver Union Station Basement): 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
*"Santa's Fe All the Way!"*

**LoDo Walking Tours:** Historian Kevin Rucker will offer two types of holiday tours. An all ages tour: Wednesday, December 2, 9 and 16 from 5-7 p.m.. Cost: \$10 for adults and \$5 for students aged 13-17. LoDo District, Inc. members and children 12 and under are free. A 21 and up tour that includes two complimentary appetizers and the opportunity to purchase cocktails: Saturdays, December 5, 12 and 19 from 3-6 p.m.. Cost: \$20 per person; \$15 for college students, seniors and LoDo District, Inc. members. To participate contact Kevin Rucker at 303-914-6100 xt. 3846 or ruckerk@mscd.edu.