



Contact: Debbie Wilmot
Public Information Officer
City of Lafayette
1290 S. Public Rd / Lafayette, CO 80026
Office: (303) 661-1225
Cell: (720) 245-1446
debbiew@cityoflafayette.com
www.cityoflafayette.com

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lafayette's Collective Community Arts Center earns Governor's Award for Best New Addition to Downtown

Honorable Mention awarded to the City's public/private parking program

LAFAYETTE, Colo March 22, 2018 – Downtown Colorado, Inc. (DCI), a nonprofit organization dedicated to revitalizing Colorado's downtown districts, has recognized Lafayette's new [Collective Community Arts Center](#) with its Governor's Award for Downtown Excellence in the category of "Best New Addition to Downtown". The Collective Community Arts Center, located in a refurbished historic building at 201 N. Public Road, serves as a clearinghouse for arts and culture, and blends the City's commitment to upholding Lafayette's past with its future evolution.

The Lafayette Urban Renewal Authority (LURA) funded the City's purchase of a facade easement from the property owner, facilitating the preservation of the historic entrance of the building and thus providing an excellent example of a turn-of-the-century frontage with large, oversized windows, transoms, and a false front, replicating what the building looked like through the 1950s.

Serving as a physical headquarters and hub for events, The Collective aspires to actively engage community members with the arts, reinforcing the City's creative, diverse, eclectic character. Visitors can experience the arts through rotating exhibits, historic displays, networking opportunities, arts business development, social themes, lectures, film series, and other enlightening programs. Since its grand opening in February of 2017, The Collective has curated events and exhibits that celebrate Lafayette's diverse population and rich history. These free arts and cultural opportunities break down barriers and help to build bridges among the many aspects of youth and adulthood, work and spirituality, city and nature, past and future.

"The Collective is a shining example of collaboration between City Council, the Lafayette Urban Renewal Authority, the Historic Preservation Board, the Cultural Arts Commission, and the arts community," stated LURA Chair, Kevin Muller. "This type of creative, out-of-the-box thinking is regionally distinguishing our community and downtown. The Collective is an amazing addition to recent successes in Old Town Lafayette and has built cohesiveness without losing the historic and eclectic character of the area."

In addition to the Best New Addition to Downtown Award, LURA was further recognized with an Honorable Mention for its Old Town public/private parking lot program. Since 2014, LURA has proactively negotiated ten public/private parking lot leases with landowners within the urban renewal area to provide additional parking for Old Town visitors. These lease agreements generally assume maintenance, snow removal, and liability of the private lots in return for public parking

spaces. This program has created [227 new public parking spaces](#). An additional 70 spaces are being proposed for 2018.

###

About Downtown Colorado, Inc. Established in 1982 as the Colorado Community Revitalization Association, [Downtown Colorado, Inc.](#) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit membership organization that aims to build better communities by providing assistance to downtowns, commercial districts and town centers in Colorado. Organization members represent downtown organizations, local governments, development and improvement districts, consultants, individuals and others involved in downtown and community development. The Governor's Awards for Downtown Excellence recognize outstanding projects and people in Colorado that demonstrate creativity in the face of enormous challenges, unlikely and enduring partnerships, and dedication to community.

