

WEST COLFAX LATELY

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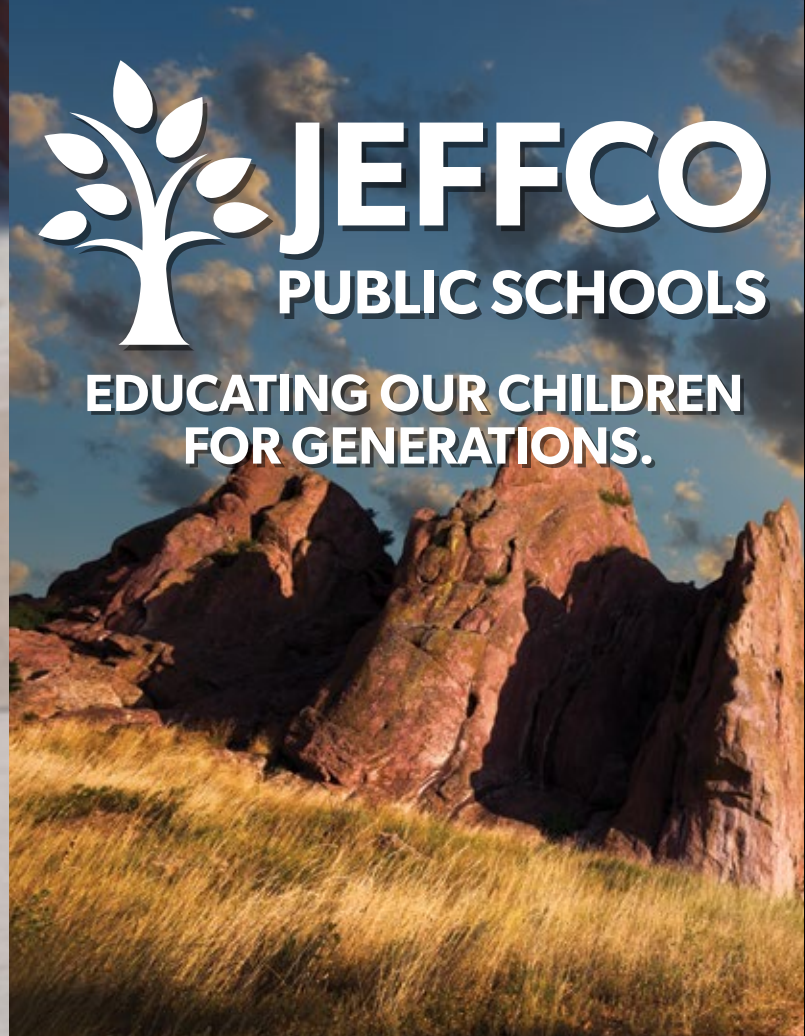




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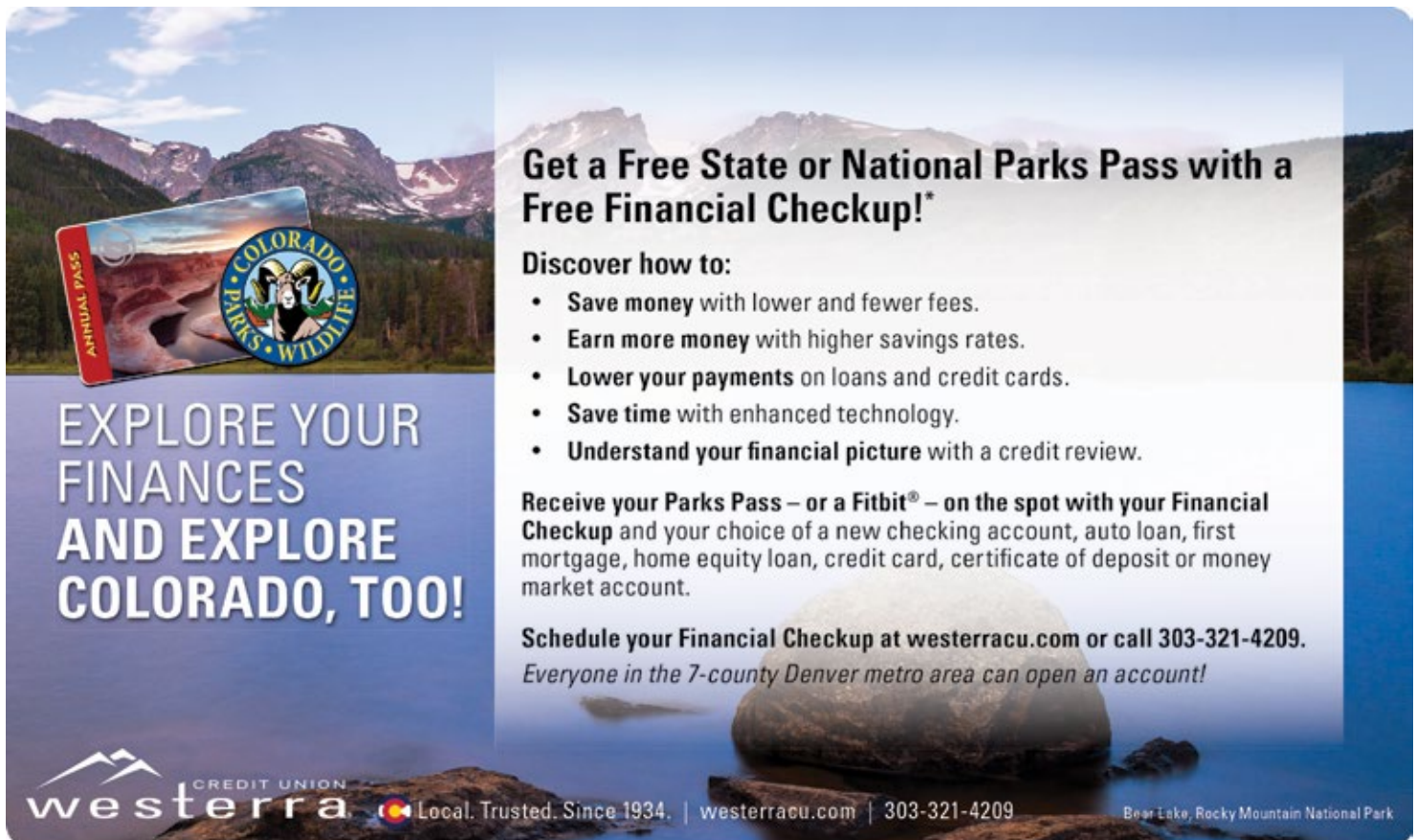
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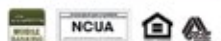
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Left to right: Liz Black, Bill Marino, and Miranda Samon celebrate after a successful West Colfax Lately Luncheon. Photo: Kathryn Zeigler.

Welcome to our 4th annual edition of *West Colfax Lately*. It seems but a blink that we published our first edition in 2015. That short span of 2015-2018 has been chock-full of change! Case in point: Our lead article, "Walk this Way," tells the story of launching the 40 West ArtLine—a four-mile walking and biking art experience. During the launch event, West Colfax welcomed more than 3,000 people to the art walk and block party—live music, festive food, dancing dinosaurs, and art everywhere! What a celebration it was—and what a remarkable achievement by our community! Four years ago this sort of amenity was only a dream, but together—neighbors, business owners, civic leaders, and City staff—we did it! And the ArtLine will only get better, as we continue to curate this outdoor art experience and add installations over the coming years.

It's now manifestly clear that something special is happening here. While there's still plenty of work to do, we have much to celebrate: yes, absolutely, the ArtLine, but also the ongoing impact of 40 West Arts District, the streetscape and pedestrian improvements, the transformation at Lamar Station Plaza, the re-investment by long-time West Colfax businesses, the investment in much-needed new, top-notch residential properties, the influx of hip, new businesses—like WestFax Brewing Co. and Dutch Bros Coffee, the arrival of top-tier contemporary art co-op galleries, and an ever-deepening level of community engagement stretching the length of Lakewood's West Colfax Corridor.

A special "thank you" to our partners at the City of Lakewood. Every department has a hand in the progress happening here. And extra kudos to the Economic Development team members who work side by side with us. To all our friends at the City—Thank You! You make a difference! Let's continue our community collaboration—now entering its second decade—as we foster our shared vision of West Colfax reinventing itself to become again a vibrant commercial corridor and entertainment destination.

The mission of our magazine is to chronicle this journey by showcasing the people and places that embody the West Colfax spirit. We're watching the West Colfax renaissance happen right before our eyes. All are welcome to join in this journey—just jump on board!

Bill Marino, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief
Chief Executive – Lakewood-W. Colfax BID
Board Chair – 40 West Arts District

Liz Black, Managing Editor
Executive Director – 40 West Arts District



MAYOR'S NOTE

The legacy of the illustrious U.S. 40 lives on, one filled with legend and lore, leaving us with an ever-changing narrative of West Colfax Avenue. If you're familiar with the history of Colorado, you know that it is a tale of boom and bust. That story certainly has played out on "the Fax" during the last few decades. Many a memory speaks to the glory days in the 1950s and 1960s, followed by downturns and dimmer times. But today we are here to celebrate its renaissance!

This great avenue continues to defy the odds. For those who proclaimed its death, I have news for you: the momentum can't be stopped. Dreams are coming true every day, things are changing, new buildings are going up and the automobile has taken a back seat to art. The 40 West ArtLine has officially launched with 70 pieces of public art along its four-mile route, binding together parks, neighborhoods, businesses and community members. This walking and biking outdoor gallery experience is set to grow into the longest continuous arts experience in Colorado.

The pioneering spirit at the roots of Colfax lives on. What started as just an idea from neighbors and businesses for art along the avenue has forged a new economy with modern-day trailblazers. An avenue once left for dead is in the middle of a rebirth. Come be a part of it, celebrate it and continue to help shape the incredible and enduring future of historic West Colfax.

-Mayor Adam Paul,
City of Lakewood

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WEST COLFAX LATELY

Lakewood's Perspective on
Colorado's Most Famous Avenue

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Cover photo by *Will Strathmann* of the
community bike ride that took place prior to
the Mayor's dedication of the 40W ArtLine.
Instagram: [@willstrath](https://www.instagram.com/willstrath)

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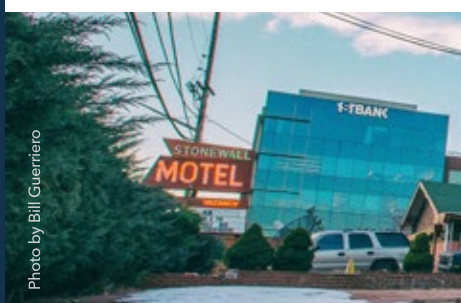


Photo by Bill Guerriero



Photo by Bill Marino

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WALK THIS WAY:

Art Meets Outdoors Along the New 40 West ArtLine

By Leah M. Charney

The next big thing in 40 West Arts District is here, four miles long, and . . . green?

Much like the Freedom Trail in Boston or Oz's fabled Yellow Brick Road, the bright green line of the 40 West ArtLine invites those who happen upon it to follow along and discover something new. As the name implies, that something is a collection of over 70 artworks in the form of wall murals, ground murals, mixed media attached to fences, as well as standalone sculptural pieces.

The idea for this expansive project originated over seven years ago in 2011. Implementation



One of the ArtLine's newest sculptures, *Dermal Plate Gateway* by PUNCH acts as a colorful backdrop to the official ribbon-cutting and launch of the 40 West Artline at Mountain Park on June 9, 2018.

has been in the works for more than a year and the effort is a shining example of collaboration. Partnerships among individual neighbors, community organizations, project drivers at the City of Lakewood and 40 West Arts District, and funding entities including an Our Town grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, are all part of a long list of those who made the project possible. Now brought to life, residents and visitors alike can pick up the four-mile walkable and bikeable green line at points throughout northeast Lakewood and follow it for as long (or as short) as they like.

The route provides an opening to see both existing artworks and murals alongside those created especially for this project. Katy Casper, an artist and environmental designer, created the interactive ground games murals that pop up at several points along the ArtLine. "In deciding what to create for each location, I visited each place several times, observed what went on there and who uses the space, and took cues from the surrounding area," Casper explains.

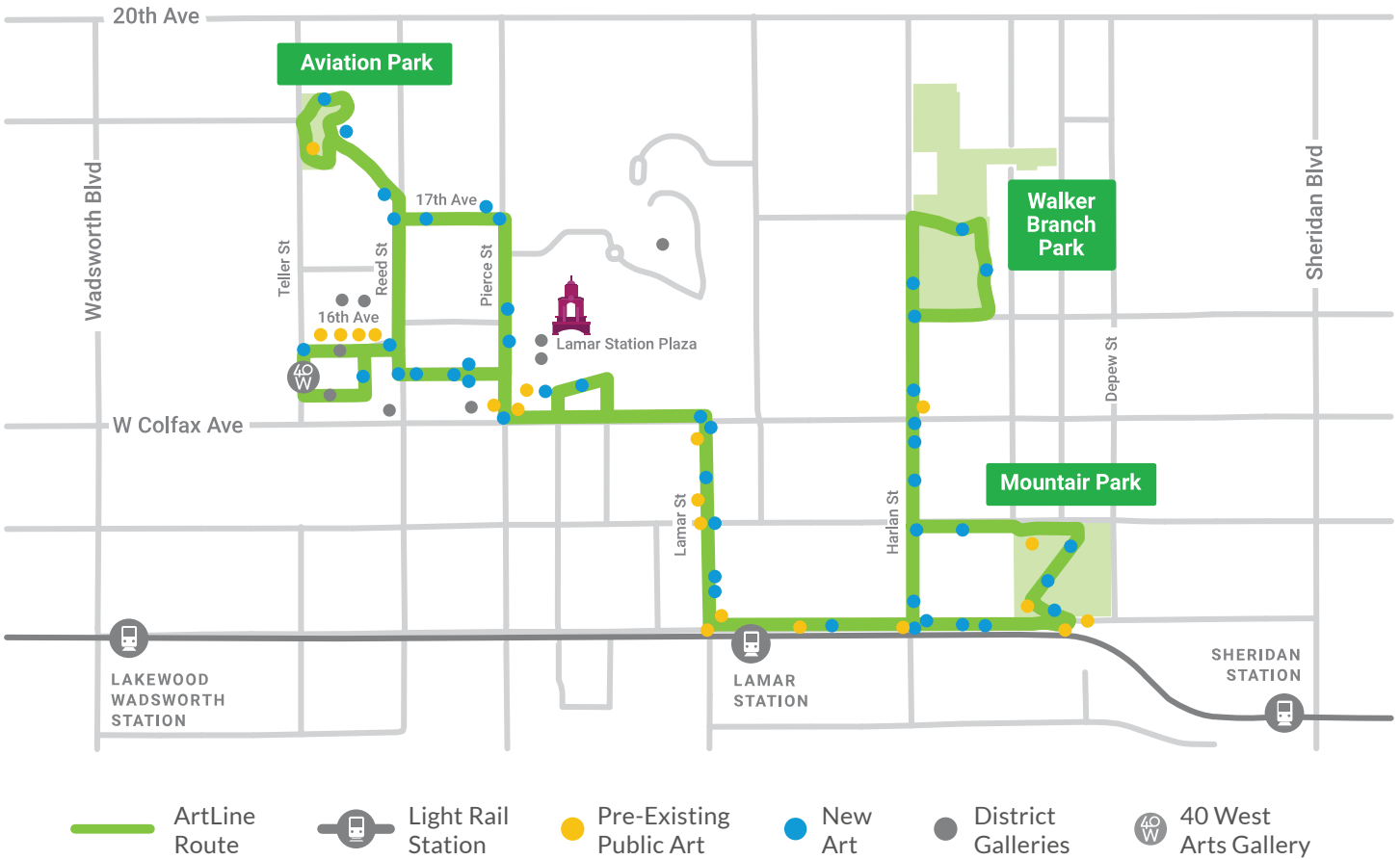
Creating an outdoor experience is a no-brainer in a place like Colorado, with our abundance of snow sports, hiking, camping, and other activities. But why go far to find excuses to get outside when an opportunity is right outside the door? "The community conversation around all of this has been 'How do you get people out and about and walking and biking in the neighborhood?'" reports Alexis Moore, 40 West Arts board member and principal planner for the City of Lakewood.

“**How do you get people out and about and walking and biking in the neighborhood?**

– Alexis Moore

To help solve that question, the meandering trail makes a series of loop-de-loops to snake along city sidewalks and bike paths, through three parks, past business and residential corridors, and of course, to spot

The 2018 ArtLine map indicates the location of pre-existing art alongside more than 30 new ground murals, kiosk totems, fence art, sculpture art and interactive pieces.



A team of volunteers, led by artist Carlos Fresquez, celebrates the completion of a 'kaleidoscope crossing' ground mural painting at Colfax and Pierce Street.



One of three park sculpture installations, *Unearthed Plates* by PUNCH, settles into its new location at Aviation Park.

a variety of art installations, old and new. The design is no accident: the 40 West ArtLine is intended to give everyone an opportunity to access art. It's fitting, then, that the ArtLine crisscrosses several points in the heart of 40 West Arts District, a Colorado certified creative district.

"It's woven into their neighborhood, so as they wake up, ride their bike, walk their dog, or walk to the store, whatever, it's integrated into their everyday. It's not the gray sidewalk. It's a pop of color that enlightens for that moment as they continue their walk," says Carlos Fresquez, an artist, teacher, and Colorado native who oversaw the installation of wayfinding ground murals, known as kaleidoscope crossings. These murals, painted by crews of volunteer community members, are a repetitive pattern that act as guideposts in places where the green line breaks to cross a street or alleyway.

The route wanders up the middle of Mountair Park, past the community farm, hugging the light rail train tracks in the

existing pedestrian and bike-only W Line Trail. The route then intersects with the Lamar Station light rail stop, where a number of previous art installations intermingle with new ground murals and wayfinding signs. Heading north, the ArtLine crosses West Colfax, branching to a little island through the southern part of Walker Branch Park. Part of the line wanders down Pierce, passing the historic campus of Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design. The path then jets along open space into the satellite that is Aviation Park, before heading south on Reed Street to a cluster of galleries and studios.

"The concept of biking through an artistic experience feels so fresh and unexpected to me," remarks Liz Black, executive director of 40 West Arts. As pedestrians and cyclists #exploreartoutside (the official hashtag for the ArtLine), several legs provide the opportunity to explore art inside, too. For example, the path takes a jaunt past 40 West Studios (a multi-artist workspace), the fun Hyperspace Arcade, and is proximal



Lakewood Mayor Adam Paul stands at a microphone to officially launch the 40 West ArtLine and cut the green ribbon as residents and community members look on.



ArtLine elements include vertical Story Totems that act as wayfinding signage and light up at night, and interactive ground murals like Aztec Maze by Katy Casper that beautify the route.

All photos on this spread by Will Strathmann.

to multiple district core galleries including Edge, NEXT, Pirate, and 40 West Arts Gallery.

The route also pops into Lamar Station Plaza, where you can take a break at WestFax Brewing or check out the Gallery of Everything, Red Herring Art Supply or Lakewood Arts Gallery. Plus you can gape at the pink pantheon herself, Casa Bonita. One of Timothy Flood's two ArtLine sculptures is installed in the plaza and was created with the urban space in mind.

Entitled Affirmation Station, ... "it communicates with people at a distance through the written messages on its lighted signs," says Flood. Flood explains that for a more personal experience, simply press the button on the sculpture's pole to hear "uplifting and empowering messages" played through a speaker built into the sculpture.

Though a June launch party christened the official opening of the 40 West ArtLine, the ArtLine as it exists now won't remain unchanged. Moore, the city planner, says, "June is not the end, it is just the beginning." More ground murals will be added, sculptures will make way for new pop-up installations and permanent art, and the annual West Colfax MuralFest, the corridor's largest festival, will provide additional

opportunities to add other outdoor canvases. It might be easiest to think of it as a rotating outdoor gallery; each time you visit, you can discover new art while also enjoying our 300 days of sunshine. Liz Black adds, "The

ArtLine isn't static but a growing, vibrant piece of Lakewood's West Colfax corridor. It will continue to evolve and expand with the corridor itself, but will always reflect the original concept and idea of exploring art outdoors." While gallery shows and stage productions are fleeting, the 40 West ArtLine has the weight of permanence, anchoring 40 West Arts District and further tying it to the greater community.

"The remarkable renaissance here continues

to gain momentum, and the ArtLine is an extraordinary example of community collaboration, demonstrating that great things can happen when neighbors, local creatives, business owners, and the city all work together," adds Bill Marino, board chair of 40 West Arts.

Follow along with the ongoing journey of the 40 West Artline on its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/40WestArtLine. Plug into the entire creative district at www.facebook.com/40WestArts.

All photos in this story by Will Strathmann.

 @willstrath

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It will continue to evolve and expand with the corridor itself, but will always reflect the original concept and idea of exploring art outdoors.

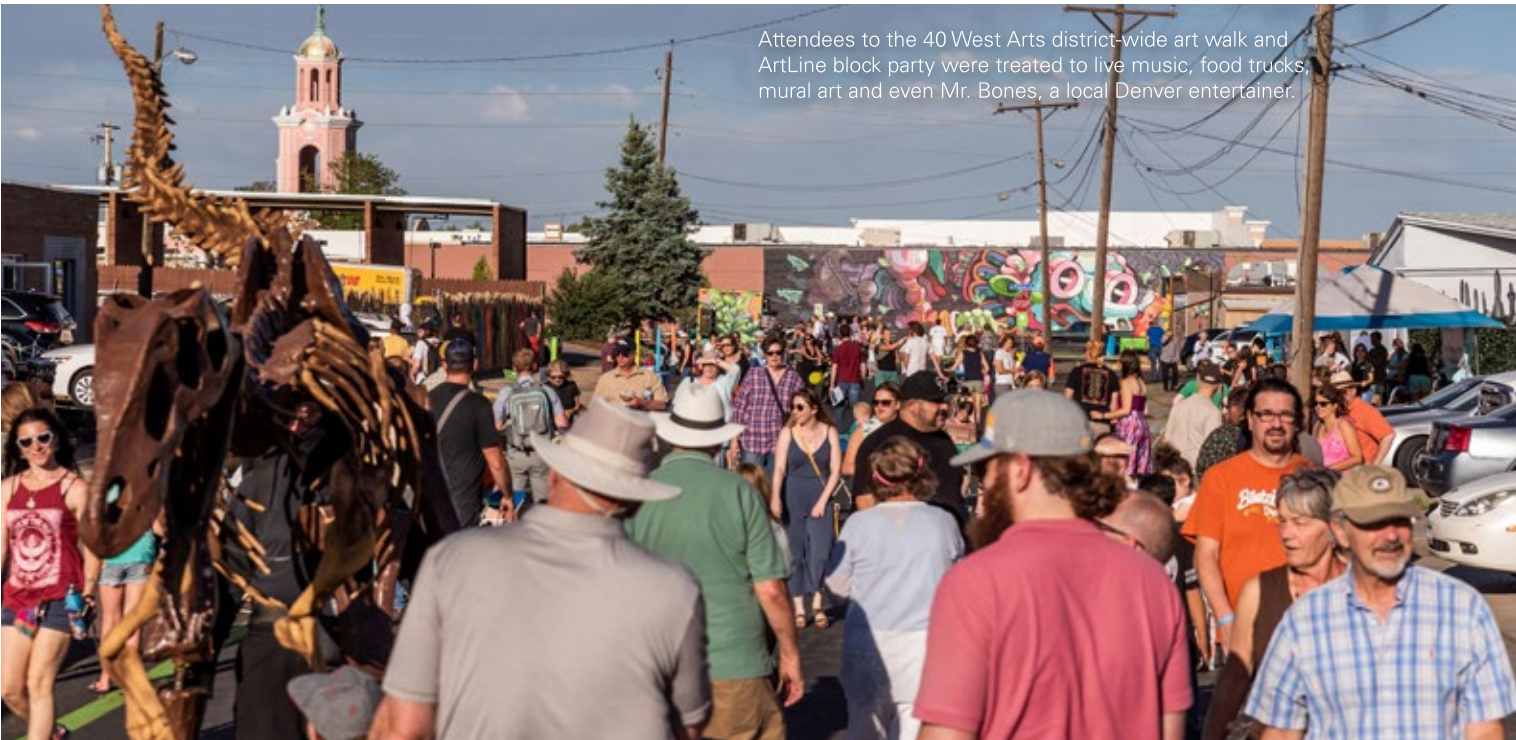
– Liz Black



Kids explore one of three fence art installations located along Lakewood Place between Pierce Street and Reed Street.



Walkers pause to enjoy a ground mural maze game before continuing along the green line.



Attendees to the 40 West Arts district-wide art walk and ArtLine block party were treated to live music, food trucks, mural art and even Mr. Bones, a local Denver entertainer.



The vision for the 40 West ArtLine will include both new installations and events, like this glow-in-the-dark, family-friendly walk hosted by Walk2Connect.



Artist Yulia Avgustinovich completes the final touches on a ground mural located along the 40 West ArtLine at Mountair Park.

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The sun has been setting behind Davie's Chuck Wagon Diner since 1957, when this fully equipped restaurant was shipped to West Colfax by railroad from New Jersey. Photo: Bill Guerriero



📍 DESTINATION *West Colfax*

● Spend 48 Hours Along The West End of Colorado's Most Famous Avenue

By Allison Cohn

Perhaps you're a vacationer looking to get away from the hustle and bustle of downtown Denver or a local (i.e. you moved here from Texas at least five years ago) anxious for weekend plans that feel a little different. Then head west, friend, to the Lakewood end of Colfax Avenue where the corridor has seen a recent resurgence of local businesses catering to residents and visitors, from millennial transplants and young families to #natives, alike. West Colfax is brimming with local gems holding true to their roots and infusing the neighborhood with charm, culture and historic value. Read on for our tips on spending 48 hours along the Lakewood West Colfax corridor.

DAY ONE:

Cult-Worthy Caffeine

Start your day with **Dutch Bros Coffee** (6671 W. Colfax Ave.), which has franchises all over Oregon and has developed quite the cult following since its inception in 1992. Dutch Bros recently opened its first metro location at Lamar Station Plaza (home of Casa Bonita). Dave Szopa, the West Denver Operator for Dutch Bros is excited about their newest locale. "We felt instantly embraced and realized quickly that the community's philosophy directly matches up with Dutch Bros' company values," Dave explains. Dutch Bros

Coffee prides itself on giving back to the local neighborhoods where its shops are located and he sees 40 West Arts District (the creative district that calls West Colfax home) as meshing perfectly with those values. What makes Dutch Bros so unique is its drive-thru and walk-up patio, where high energy and fast paced servers will deliver your caffeine fix quickly and efficiently.

More Top Choices: Sweet Bloom Coffee Roasters (1619 Reed Street), Mint & Serif Coffee House (11500 W Colfax Ave.)

Stretch 'n' Pedal

You're fully caffeinated so now it's time to jump on your bike, or your yoga mat, or both.

Container Collective Yoga & Bikes (1492 Ammons St.) houses a gorgeous yoga studio with an ever-expanding schedule that includes all level courses, plus kid's yoga and yoga teacher training. It includes a bike shop and a bamboo bike-building center, where you can fix that gear that's been making a weird popping sound or sign up for a weekend workshop where you build a bike and then take (or ride) it home. Container Collective "supports people in transforming their lives, giving them a skill set to serve the community on a deeper level," says owner and teacher Brittany Hopkins.

Flora & Fauna

You might not consider West Colfax much of a "green" destination (except for a smattering of local medical dispensaries), but it's actually home to several renowned flower shops and garden



Stop by Jensen's to treat yourself to seasonal flowers and hanging baskets. Photo: Kathryn Zeigler



Bamboo bikes embellish one wall of Container Collective Yoga & Bikes, which houses both a yoga studio and bike repair shop. Photo: Kathryn Zeigler

centers. **Veldkamp's Flowers & Gifts** (9501 W. Colfax Ave.) is a family-owned and operated business established in 1959 that recently went through a multi-million dollar renovation. Veldkamp's is home to a gigantic greenhouse, adorable retail shop with plants, pottery, candles and more, and the company also hosts flower arrangement courses. Veldkamp's imports the highest grades of flowers from California, Holland and South America multiple times a week and uses state-of-the-art transport technology to ensure quality freshness of all its products.

Jensen's Flower & Garden (845 Wadsworth Blvd.) is a locally-owned garden center and nursery that has also been servicing the neighborhood for over 30 years. It grows a majority of inventory locally in greenhouses in Golden, so plants are already acclimated to Colorado's dry mountain air. Since Jensen's doesn't ship out of state, it boasts a low carbon footprint and run an environmentally friendly business. Plus, the company claims to have the very best hanging baskets in town.

More Top Choices: O'Toole's Garden Center (1404 Quail St.)

Lunchtime

All that biking and yoga-ing and looking at plants works up an appetite, so head to **Thai Diamond Cafe** (1560 Kipling St.), tucked into a shopping center on the corner of West Colfax and Kipling. Its "Thai-spicy" curries and noodles are a force to be reckoned with. It's also one of the rare Asian restaurants in Denver serving khao soi, a Northern Thai recipe that is also popular in Myanmar and

Laos. This soup-like dish includes both deep-fried and boiled egg noodles topped with pickled mustard greens, shallots and lime with your choice of meat (typically chicken) in a coconut sauce.

Curry isn't your thing? It's a quick jaunt to West Colfax favorite **Chicago-Style Beef & Dogs** (6680 W. Colfax Ave.), where the people behind the counter have just as much attitude as the food. Specializing in Italian beef and Vienna beef hot dogs, this authentic Chicago eatery even boasts Fannie May candy, Salerno butter cookies and Green River pop. Want to put ketchup on your hot dog? You might have to argue with the spirited family owners behind the register but hey, it's all part of an authentic experience (and ketchup doesn't go on hot dogs anyway, you savage).

Sustainable Vintage + Treasures

Filled up and ready for more action, it's time to go shopping and West Colfax is known for its quirky, cool, independent haunts. If you're in the market for some fresh costume accessories, **Disguises** (9797 W. Colfax Ave.) offers both costume rental and attire for purchase. It has it all, from rubber masks to more refined wares, like pin-up girl tights and heels, colorful wigs, and high-quality face paint, steampunk hats, and dusters. You can get lost for an hour in this expansive store with multiple rooms, but remember to take off the gorilla mask before you go looking for your family.



Lost Love Vintage Boutique (9797 W. Colfax Ave.) is just across the parking lot from Disguises, if you're looking for something more subtle and authentic. This little boutique also boasts a rotating variety of quirky and colorful antique kitchen accessories, hats, gloves and fur coats. And finally the **ARCThrift Store** (6791 W. Colfax Ave.) in Lamar Station Plaza is unbeatable when it comes to inventory, variety and pricing for all things reused and recycled. From home goods and furniture to clothing and an awesomely huge kids section, if you dig deep you're likely to find some real gems.



Find vintage home goods, jewelry, and clothing at Lost Love Boutique. Photo: Kathryn Zeigler



Colorful vintage couches are just one find among many in the showroom of Plank & Pearl. Photo: Kathryn Zeigler



Chicago Style Beef & Dogs opened its doors along West Colfax in 1997, making it one of the corridor's most long-standing businesses. Photo: Niki Whiteman

Plank & Pearl (8800 W. 14th Ave.) is open through appointment only, but this must-see shop and showroom specializes in boutique vintage rentals and styling for events, and its inventory is spectacular. Walls lined with color-coordinated glassware and dishes, upholstered settees and loveseats from the days when furniture was designed to be more attractive than comfortable, birdcages of all shapes and sizes, rustic bars of reclaimed wood, patterned rugs, and vintage chandeliers. Plank & Pearl offers both individual rentals and packages, as well as event staging and styling. Plus it takes pride in being a sustainable business; everything is reused and nothing is thrown away.

DAY TWO:

Vintage Diners

Start your day at **Davies Chuck Wagon Diner** (9495 W. Colfax Ave.), a location with traditional breakfast eats (think cheese omelets and steak and eggs) in a traditional 1950s era diner. And you can serve up a history lesson to your kids alongside their stack of pancakes. This fully equipped restaurant was shipped by rail from New Jersey all the way to West Colfax in 1957.

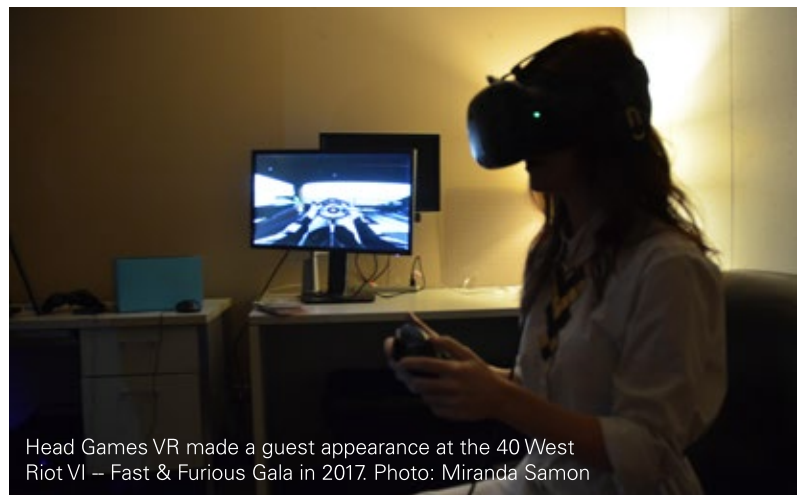
The diner is one of three West Colfax haunts listed on the National Register of Historic Places (the other two are Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design and Golden Hill Cemetery).

More Top Choices: Danny's Carnation (1395 Wadsworth Blvd.), Hits the Spot Diner (5637 W. Colfax Ave.), Lakewood Grill (8100 W Colfax Ave.)

The Future (and Past!) of Gaming

After breakfast it's just a two-minute walk along Colfax to **Head Games VR** (9655 W. Colfax Ave.), the first woman-owned virtual reality arcade in Colorado. In her words, owner Victoria Merchant says her arcade "offers a form of family entertainment [virtual reality] that would normally be fiscally out of reach for so many, available to everyone." Head Games VR provides the latest in VR technology for a total immersion experience. Offerings also include affordable custom-built gaming computers, computer repair, off-site VR equipment rentals and more. So strap on a headset and be transported to another world.

If you're looking for a more nostalgic — and arguably less dizzying — experience, pop into **Hyperspace Arcade** (1601 Reed St.), where you can have unlimited access (plus, same-day re-entry!) to over 175 arcade and pinball games for just \$14. This teeming game collection spans the decades from the 1970s through the 90s, and the arcade is open seven days per week from noon until 1 a.m. Monthly "Hyper Passes" are available for \$45, granting you 30 days of unlimited play.



Head Games VR made a guest appearance at the 40 West Riot VI – Fast & Furious Gala in 2017. Photo: Miranda Samon

Authentic Eats

Hungry after all that gaming? Get a taste of Eastern Europe on West Colfax at the **European Market & Deli** (1990 Wadsworth Blvd.). Serving tasty sandwiches on homemade bread and authentic cheese pies from an unassuming counter in the back of the shop, this market is stocked with imported grocery items and treats from the Balkans region — including Bulgarian cured meats, Ajvar and Kinder Bueno chocolates.

Located in the very same shopping center is **Deli Italia Market** (1990 Wadsworth Blvd.), which has been in the 'hood for thirty years. It proudly makes its own fresh mozzarella daily and serves hand-tossed pizzas, carefully crafted sandwiches, its famous meatballs and heavenly cannolis — plus a wide variety of imported pastas, oils and vinegars from Italy.

More Top Choices: Bangkok Thai Food (2099 Wadsworth Blvd.), Chicago Market (1477 Carr St.), Colorado Cookie Company (1470 Carr St.), Pho 2 Love (6593 W. Colfax Ave.)

Explore Art Outside!

Grab lunch to go and then #ExploreArtOutside, it's the tagline for the new **40 West ArtLine**, a walkable bikeable arts route in the heart of West Colfax and Colorado certified creative district 40 West Arts. The route features murals both wall and ground, fence art and interactive art pieces including an Affirmation Station by artist Timothy Flood (punch a crosswalk-like button and receive an affirmation through the kiosk, which speaks to you and lights up). The ArtLine also intersects with **Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design** (1600 Pierce St.), a private college in the heart of the corridor with a gorgeous outdoor space and four galleries open to the public.

And if walking or biking aren't your thing (we get it, exercise is lame) there are a number of motorcycle shops located along West Colfax just waiting for you to spruce up your ride and drive like the wind. **Dino's Custom Cycles** (7855 W. 16th Ave.) is one of the best, it services all makes and models and offers custom builds and almost any modification you can think of. Check out the one-of-a-kind cycles at the shop while you're there.



House-made tzatziki sauce adorns a gyro, one of many gourmet sandwiches at European Market & Deli. Photo: European Market



ArtLine visitors enjoy a sweet treat in front of a new fence art installation, this one embellished with wings and birdhouses created by Edge Gallery. Photo: Dave Rein



One of Dino's custom-built cycles commands attention in the front area of the shop. Photo: Kathryn Zeigler

More Top Choices: Foothills Motorcycles (1435 N Wadsworth Blvd.), G-Force Powersports of Lakewood (7700 W. Colfax Ave.)

Art and Theater

You're in a creative district, so be sure to finish up your West Colfax jaunt with a little arts and culture (yes, we said arts, culture and Colfax in the same sentence). Haley Johnson, the Producing Artistic Director of **Benchmark Theater** (1560 Teller St.), describes her company as "extremely mission-driven, with a strong focus on community collaboration and partnerships." They're simply a group of artists looking to create and promote "interesting stories that question what it is that

Chow Time

You're tucked out from a full two days along West Colfax, but recap your travels over a final meal in the corridor. You've got multiple options but for the local experience, head to **Max's Mexican Restaurant** (6999 W. Colfax Ave.). This intimate location packs a big punch with authentic Mexican food and a full bar. The menu offerings run from cheese enchiladas to tacos al carbon and a muy bueno breakfast burrito, too.

Looking for something a little more 'swanky'? **Kazoku Sushi** (10665 W. Colfax Ave.) has you covered. This local restaurant checks all the boxes with a rotating selection of unique sushi rolls and classic favorites like the California roll for the vegetarians in your life. You can also saddle up

to the sushi bar for a quick food fix and a glass of Sapporo beer. Happy hour is from 4:00-5:30pm (we know you were wondering).

More Top Choices: Pattaya Thai Restaurant (1571 Wadsworth Blvd.), WestFax Brewing Company (6733 W. Colfax Ave.)

Life along Lakewood's West Colfax is well, pretty sweet. This growing corridor is full of momentum and energy and has a certified creative district, 40 West Arts to boot. Nestled only 15 minutes from downtown Denver and 45 minutes to the mountains, you probably didn't even know what you were missing. Shhhh, try not to tell everyone.



The neon sign at Pirate: Contemporary Art illuminates the Bad Astronauts and their jellyfish installations during a 40 West Arts district-wide art walk. Photo: Dave Rein.

makes us human." Benchmark has taken over the theater space previous held by the EDGE and boasts unique, high-quality productions in their intimate space. Benchmark is dedicated to bringing quality theatrical productions to the West Colfax corridor and neighboring community.

Before seeing a show, be sure to pop into one of **40 West Arts many galleries** and creative businesses, where exhibits change monthly and there's always something thought-provoking to take in. We won't list em' all here but Pirate: Contemporary Art, NEXT Gallery, EDGE Gallery, Lakewood Arts, and Gallery of Everything are just some of the creative spaces that call 40 West Arts home.



Benchmark Theatre takes the stage in their new space in the heart of 40 West Arts. Photo: McLeod9Creative

ART FESTIVAL IN THE HEART
OF 40 WEST ARTS DISTRICT



LIVE
MUSIC

MURALS

TROLLEY
TOURS

DEMOS

West Colfax
**MURAL
FEST** 2018

A white silhouette of a paintbrush with a flat head and a handle.

CRAFT
BEER

FOOD

ARTSY
VENDORS

FAMILY
FUN



Sat. August 11th, 2018

AT LAMAR STATION PLAZA
(HOME TO CASA BONITA) IN LAKEWOOD, CO

**11am-
6pm**

www.WestColfaxMuralFest.org



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A Hidden Gem: Lakewood Country Club's 100+ Years of History in the Colfax Corridor

By Robert Autobee

Ten years before West Colfax Avenue was paved for the first time, a new golf club opened in the rural pasture land of Jefferson County. That was 1908—about the same time the first telephone service came to the area. And even though the city that would claim the name would not be chartered for 60+ years, the telephone exchange for the area was “LA” for “Lakewood.”

Why a new golf club just 4.5 miles from downtown Denver? In the early years of the 20th century, around the time that the Denver

Country Club (DCC) and its membership were transitioning from its original Overland Park locale (est. 1887) to its new site along Cherry Creek (1905), a group of businessmen, including some members of DCC, were looking for a new golfing venue. With rail service available from Denver to Golden beginning in 1893—they saw an opportunity to create a new golfing destination just west of Denver.

The land for the new golf club, 120+ acres of rolling meadows, was acquired from the heirs



Lakewood Country Club's 38,000 sq. ft. clubhouse sits above the 18th green and atop a crest among the rolling hills and lush landscape of this historic Donald Ross-design golf course. Photo by Steve Hirsch: courtesy LCC

of Colorado pioneer William A. H. Loveland, one of the founders of the town of Golden (1859), the original real estate speculator who built the railroad from Denver to Golden, and the man credited with naming the area "Lakewood" when he first platted the land in Jefferson County for development in the 1880s.

Rumors abound about the backroom banter that resulted in this new endeavor, but revolts are rarely hatched on the golf course. There were no angry mobs carrying torches and raising nine irons leading to the formation of the new club in 1908. It was more of an entrepreneurial venture, which was more in keeping with the character of its members—and still holds true to this day.

According to the club's published history, local men of status—investment banker and insurance broker

Michael A. "Mac" McLaughlin, Theodore C. Smith, vice president of the International Trust Company, brewer Adolph Coors, and John Morey, owner of Colorado's largest grocery wholesaler—led about 100 members of the Overland Course to form the new Colorado Golf Club, the original name of what we all know now as Lakewood Country Club.

McLaughlin's drive as deal maker resulted in the completion of the original clubhouse in a distinctive Spanish Mission Revival style in 1910, two years after the nine-hole course was established. And in 1912, members voted to become a country club and changed its name to Lakewood Country Club.

In those early years of the 1900s, West Colfax was still a rutted, dirt road and the area was largely open space and farmland; one of the only nearby established developments was the Jewish Consumptive Relief Society (JCRS), a facility founded in 1904 by Dr. Charles Spivak to treat patients with tuberculosis in the sunny, dry air of Colorado. These buildings are now on the National Registry of Historic Places and serve as the campus of Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design.

While some golf was played on the rolling parkland course before the Club was incorporated on March 6, 1908, only 9 holes were available. It wasn't until 1910 that the original course architect, the prolific Tom Bendelow, designed the full 18 holes, which in 1916 were refined into a classic masterpiece by Scottish-born Donald Ross, widely acknowledged as the greatest golf course architect of the first half of the 20th century.



The first clubhouse was completed in 1910, but it was destroyed by fire in 1913. Photo courtesy: LCC

Ross, who apprenticed at St. Andrews, designed many of the most enduring courses in the U.S., including Pinehurst #2, Oakland Hills, Seminole, Oak Hill, and East Lake.

More national championships have been conducted on Donald Ross golf courses than any other course designer. Golf legend Jack Nicklaus lauded Ross's unique skill as a course designer, saying: "His stamp as an architect was naturalness." Ross shaped a course in a way that made it appear that Mother Nature was integrally involved in the design, nestling holes within the native contours of the land.

With a Donald Ross golf course—his first in Colorado—it was fitting that the club's members excel on the links. McLaughlin, in addition to his abilities in the board room, was a stellar golfer. He also distinguished the new club by serving as the first President of

the Colorado Golf Association, formed in 1915. Called "Mac" by all who knew him, he was one of the top amateur golfers in Colorado in the years before and after World War I. An account on the Colorado Golf Hall of Fame website noted McLaughlin's dominance on his home course during the 1919 State Amateur Championship:

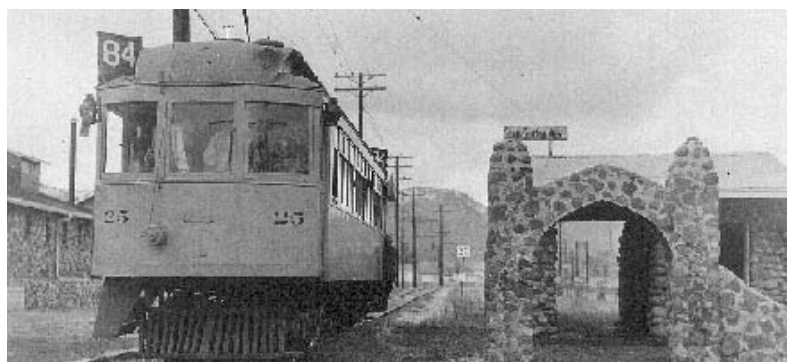
"Mac was playing his best golf in 1919 when he defeated fellow Lakewood member Sandy Palmer in the finals. In the afternoon round of his match, McLaughlin set a Lakewood course record for the front nine, going out in just 33 strokes. With a new 18-hole record well in his grasp, Mac declined to play the last two holes feeling that he had 'golfed enough for one week.'" McLaughlin was the first to establish the enduring legacy of Lakewood members who distinguished themselves as top-notch competitors, with the Club claiming more than its share of state titles.



World-renowned golf course architect Donald Ross redesigned the Lakewood course in 1916. Photo courtesy: LCC



Michael A. "Mac" McLaughlin Illustration courtesy: LCC



Car 25 makes a stop along the old trolley line that connected Denver and Golden. Photo courtesy: LCC

For country clubs to thrive there had to be a measure of accessibility. John Gardner, a member of the Lakewood Country club for more than 77 years, is recognized as the club's historian. Gardner recalled that LCC provided a service where the Club would collect golfers in an automobile once they got off the Denver & Golden Interurban line near Pierce Street, a stop at the time called Golf Club Station. Carrying your clubs on the trolley was not an issue as the club provided a storage area where members could keep their golf bags.

Gardner said his family "is deeply ingrained" in the club as his grandfather joined as an original member in 1910 and his father and uncle returned from World War I in 1918 and were added to the membership rolls. By the time he became a member in 1941, Gardner recalls he had to pay up front six-months' worth of dues, totaling \$11.20.

As one of the oldest established organizations in Lakewood, the club naturally faced changes, economic cycles, and the odd tragedy over the past 110 years. There once was a convenient entry gate along the course's south border, but the widening of West Sixth Avenue during World War II to accommodate better access to the Denver Ordinance Plant (current Denver Federal Center) eliminated that entrance. Also in the 1940s, a



Charles "Babe" Lind (left) and Mildred "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias. Illustrations courtesy: LCC

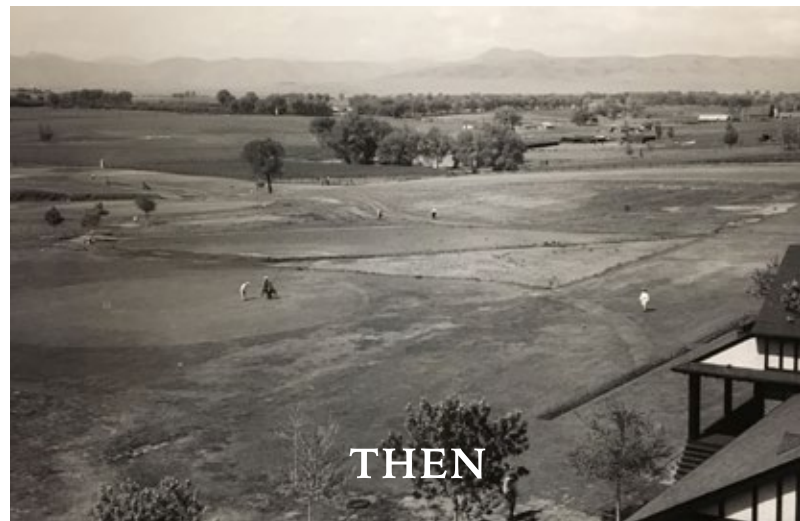
caddie drowned while retrieving golf balls from a lake on the property. The current clubhouse is the club's fourth one with fire destroying two earlier buildings, the original clubhouse in 1913 and the subsequent facility in 1948.

In the subsequent decades, the population exploded throughout the metro area as servicemen once stationed here returned to make a home. Neighborhoods swelled to house the new residents. Green Acres and other subdivisions along West Colfax saw a dramatic spike in new home construction. Club membership expanded with new Jefferson County residents as well as those coming from Denver—and LCC rose as a powerhouse of golf champions.

Lakewood member Charles “Babe” Lind claimed three straight Colorado Junior Championships from 1934-36 and was a premier amateur player of the 1940s, winning the Colorado Stroke Play championship three times, the 1946 Colorado Match Play championship, and was a quarterfinalist in the 1946 U.S. Amateur. In 1947 he became the first native Coloradan to play in the Masters. Also in the late 40s and early 50s, Mildred “Babe” Didrikson Zaharias lived in the area, eventually buying a house in nearby Edgewater. An Olympic gold medalist in track and field and a 10-time LPGA major champion, Babe played and practiced often at Lakewood Country Club until she moved to Florida in 1955. She is widely regarded as one of the greatest female athletes of all time. A long list of Lakewood players achieved notoriety, including professionals Pat Abbott, Art Doering, Doug Saunders, Paul McMullen, Dale Douglass, and Tom Reed. Jim Vickers was NCAA champion; Larry McAtee won four Colorado state titles, and Robert Clark qualified and played in the National



Gene Root (left) and Robert E. Clarke. Illustrations courtesy: LCC



The top photo is from the old water tower looking southwest across the course. The bottom photo is from a similar vantage point taken from the Men's Grill in the current clubhouse, showing the extensive tree growth over the past 100+ years. Photos courtesy: LCC

Amateur 13 times. All these golfers are among the 29 LCC members who are inductees into the Colorado Golf Hall of Fame.

As the century crossed its midpoint, Lakewood members continued their winning ways. The CGA hosted its annual state match play championship at Lakewood in '51, '54, '58, and '59. LCC members won the championship more often than any other club in the decade, including all four events hosted at Lakewood.

In the '50s and '60s as Lakewood Country Club reveled in its growth, it hosted a number of noteworthy events including the Denver Cup, LPGA's Mile High Open and USGA's National Women's Amateur Championship. Meanwhile, West Colfax was celebrating its heyday—serving as the “Gateway to the Rockies.” As the post-war American automotive culture swept the

nation, innumerable travelers passed through this section of U.S. 40 (Colfax Ave.) on their way to the mountains. Members and local residents alike enjoyed the eclectic night life in the area. From the Pig & Whistle to Taylor's Supper Club, West Colfax was replete with motor inns, eateries and entertainment options. Lakewood Country Club was thriving as well. About the time it's namesake city was chartered (1969), the club had approximately 300 golf members and more than 200 social members.

Fast forward to the 21st century: West Colfax had endured a prolonged period of economic decline due in part to re-routed traffic patterns following the Interstate opening in the early '70s. But now it's amid a resurgence—led by a grass-root effort of neighborhood, business, and civic leaders in collaboration with the City of Lakewood.

"In the last decade, we've seen our community come together to focus on re-energizing West Colfax—and a number of LCC members played key roles. This resulted in more than \$750 million of public and private investment in the area," says Bill Marino, chief executive for the local business improvement district and board chair of the 40 West Arts District.

Investments and milestones include the successful campaign to form the local business improvement district (2009-2011), the opening of RTD's W Line (2013), state-certification for 40 West Arts Creative District (2014) and its



Lakewood Country Club's current Board of Directors: Standing from Left to Right: Steven "Steve" R. Ferrie, Treasurer; Norton "Norty" C. Frickey, II, Thomas "Tom" M. Piercy, President; Clay A. Campbell, and Danette S. Reagan, Vice President. Seated from Left to Right: Patrick "Pat" W. Shanley, Thomas "Tom" A. Gysin, Louis "Lou" J. Ficco, Jr., and James "Mike" M. Margonie, Secretary. Photo courtesy: LCC

“ Neighborhood leaders, LCC members, and the City all have played key roles in re-energizing West Colfax—resulting in more than \$750 million in public and private investment. ”

- Bill Marino

ever-growing collection of galleries and creative venues; the construction of new headquarters for Terumo BCT (2015) and FirstBank (2016), the revitalization of Lamar Station Plaza in 2016 (formerly JCRS Shopping Center) and its emergence as a community hub, an estimated 2500+ housing units (2016 to present) either available, under construction, or in planning along the W Line corridor; and the opening of the first phase of the 40 West ArtLine, a four-mile walking and biking route with 70+ art installations serving as an amenity for locals and a destination for visitors.

Lakewood Country Club—like the renaissance along the West Colfax corridor—was going through its own transformation, dedicating its new 38,000-sq. ft. clubhouse and 4,000-sq. ft. swimming complex in time to celebrate its 100-year anniversary in 2008. The new facilities opened as the club's membership was evolving to a younger, more family-oriented clientele. And there was more change to come . . .

In 2017, after more than 20-years of planning, Lakewood's members decided to invest in its greatest asset—the golf course. Acclaimed golf course architect Gil Hanse began a restoration project on the historic course. Hanse, known as a "Donald Ross specialist," has worked on an impressive list of notable courses and

received worldwide recognition for his 2016 Olympic Course in Rio de Janeiro. He was a natural choice for the \$1.6 million project that re-opened for play in May 2018.

"We've had a relationship with Gil Hanse since the '90s when our Course Superintendent Chris Swim invited him here to consult on our course master plan," explains Club General Manager Lance Scheele. "With Donald Ross as one of our original designers and Gil's similar design philosophy, we felt he would be a great fit."

By all accounts, Hanse, Scheele, Swim and the club's board aced the restoration. The 450 golf members are enjoying the course enhancements—with changes to eight holes, adding 200+ yards in length, key bunkers, interesting site lines, and strategic risk-reward elements, while staying true to the essentials of the classic Donald Ross design.

Today, Lakewood Country Club, with more than half of its membership coming from the surrounding 5-mile radius, serves as both a social hub and an economic driver for Lakewood's West Colfax corridor. LCC employs on average more than 100 staff, infusing \$3.5 million dollars into the local economy. While it is a private club with all the associated trappings, it hosts many events for locals—weddings, corporate meetings, golf outings, and ballroom events—including the always popular annual West Colfax Lately Luncheon. The club is also a venue for dozens of events for local charities that raise millions of dollars for noteworthy causes. This tradition of supporting nonprofits began in 1915 when LCC hosted a Red Cross Benefit during World War I.



Lakewood Mayor Adam Paul poses with long-time LCC member John Gardner during a Two Creeks Neighborhood meeting at the club. Photo: Bill Marino



Hole #14 is one of the most dramatic new changes to the course, adding a two-tiered fairway, dramatic bunker structures, and pushing the green complex closer to a water hazard. Photo courtesy: Premier Aerials, Brandon Hanson

"I've seen the club evolve to keep up with the changing times," penned Gardner in the preface to the club's centennial history. "The second-oldest club in the metro area, LCC holds an important place in the history of golf in Colorado, producing many excellent players, teachers, administrators, and promoters of the game. As one of the oldest entities in Lakewood, the club also contributes to the City's heritage."

"Every club has its amenities," says Scheele, "and the more established one's like Lakewood have a rich history, but what really sets us apart is our membership. Our membership is, by and large, made up of successful entrepreneurs who embrace the collegial competition that a premiere golf course provides as well as the social camaraderie of a country club—and that includes extending a warm welcome to new members."

Scheele continues: "Everyone knows where Denver Country Club and Cherry Hills Country Club are located, but Lakewood is tucked away—concealed by a freeway wall along 6th Avenue and nestled in a residential area a few blocks south of West Colfax—we're a hidden gem with deep traditions and a history inextricably linked to West Colfax."

FACTOID FRENZY

Nine Nuggets of Quirky Corridor Trivia

By Allison Cohn

Ever hear the one about the West Colfax neighborhood naming contest of 1912? How about the 1940 traffic signal that was finally installed at Wadsworth and Colfax? Or the silver fox farm? If you keep losing the Colfax category on trivia night at the bar, then read on, friend. The factoids below will give you authentic West Colfax street cred and are guaranteed to impress even your most surly, old-school Colorado compadres.

1. Casa Bonita is undeniably the epicenter of West Colfax (whether we like it or not). You've tried the free sopapillas, but did you know that Casa Bonita's dome is covered with 22-karat gold leaf and features a statue of the last Aztec emperor, Quahuatomec? It's also one of the highest points in the area at 85 feet tall.

2. Colfax Avenue was part of The Victory Highway—U.S. Highway 40—dedicated in 1926, the first coast-to-coast highway that at one time crossed the country from Atlantic City to San Francisco. The avenue was named for Schuyler Colfax, Ulysses Grant's Vice President. Colfax also served in Congress for the state of Indiana and Highway 40 bisects its capital, Indianapolis.

3. Here come your weird 'name origins' factoids. The neighborhood of Mountair that's just south of West Colfax was the subject of a naming contest in 1912, won by a local housewife. What was her prize? A ten-pound sack of potatoes. Now how about an easy one . . . What are the creeks in the Two Creeks Neighborhood? It's a trick question. The answer doesn't involve any creeks, but rather two gulches. It's Dry Gulch and N. Dry Gulch that carry water through Lakewood's oldest neighborhood.

4. Do you like golf? Then take a swing at the following facts. You know that the Lakewood Country Club opened in 1908, correct? It's the

second oldest country club in the state . . . but do you know its original name? Answer: it was called the Colorado Golf Club when founded and the name didn't change until 1912. Spring that one on your native know-it-alls.

5. Speaking of golf, you probably already know about the nine-hole golf course that once occupied the land where the present-day Safeway and Vitamin Cottage sit along West Colfax and Garrison—it even had lights for night-time play! This golf course of yesteryear was also home to "Boggio's on the Green," a restaurant that opened in 1965 by the well respected and prominent Denver restaurateur Natale Boggio. He also owned a motel on West Colfax.

6. And talk about pretty random things, here's a downright weird one for you. Lakewood used to be home to a silver fox farm. No, that's not a members-only club where the corridor's handsome middle-aged men gather to smoke cigars and drink muddled bourbon cocktails. The foxes were, ahem, used for meat, dog food to be exact. Plus, raising foxes to "harvest" was a two-fer: the furs were worth good money. It seems creepy now but back then, it was all so obvious.

7. In case you didn't already think Wadsworth and Colfax was a busy corner, the newspapers during the 1930s made it official, indicating the convergence of a post office, churches, schools, gas stations, a telephone switchboard, an appliance and hardware store. In fact, during the '30s, the traffic became such a problem on that corner that a Red Cross station was set up and manned 24 hours a day to aid the victims of automobile accidents. It wasn't until 1940 that a traffic signal was installed (nearly 20 years after the first documented multi-car crash in the corridor). Better late than never?



*Illustration by
Julie Kitzes*

8. And where was everyone commuting to, anyway? During World War II, Lakewood was home to the Denver Ordnance Plant, which was operated by Remington Arms and employed anyone willing to work its three daily shifts to crank out ammo to ship overseas. During its heyday, the plant employed 20,000 people. This sudden population boom caused a housing shortage and enabled entrepreneurial residents to capitalize by temporarily renting out their chicken coops and barns to DOP employees.

9. And what about the street names along West Colfax? The valiant efforts of a water engineer during the mid-1890s to rename all the streets alphabetically hadn't quite caught on. In fact, it took until the 1950s for the names we now know

to stick, due to the constantly evolving mini municipalities (yes Edgewater, we're looking at you) springing up and then dissolving throughout the metro area. Through the 1940s the street names on the north side of West Colfax differed from the south side. This made West Colfax an immensely confusing place and posed a navigation challenge for everyone.

This concludes the first edition of Factoid Frenzy about West Colfax. If you have more curious morsels about the corridor that you care to share, feel free to reach out to us at info@westcolfax.org or post them at [@westcolfax](https://twitter.com/westcolfax). Or, you know, keep them entirely to yourself to impress people at parties.



96.9 the Cloud

JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLORADO

thecloud.fm



Bangkok Thai Food

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Lakewood, CO 80214
(303) 238-8000



Beijing Chinese Scoop

6173 W. Colfax Ave.,
Lakewood, CO 80214
(303) 238-1088



Chicago Style Beef & Dogs

6680 W. Colfax Ave.,
Lakewood, CO 80214
(303) 233-0500



Dino's Italian Restaurant

10040 W. Colfax Ave.,
Lakewood, CO 80215
(303) 238-7393



Deli Italia

1990 Wadsworth Blvd.,
Lakewood, CO 80214
(303) 248-7208



European Market & Deli

1990 Wadsworth Blvd.,
Lakewood, CO 80214
(303) 476-3294



Kazoku Sushi

10665 W. Colfax Ave.,
Lakewood, CO 80215
(303) 238-1199



Lakewood Grill

8100 W. Colfax Ave.,
Lakewood, CO 80214
(303) 237-8051



Max's Mexican Restaurant

6999 W. Colfax Ave.,
Lakewood, CO 80214
(303) 237-0700



Misfits Bar and Grill

11475 W. Colfax Ave.,
Lakewood, CO 80215
(303) 233-3000



Pho 2 Love

6593 W. Colfax Ave.,
Lakewood, CO 80214
(303) 233-1900



Yianni's Gyros Place

10450 W. Colfax Ave.,
Lakewood, CO 80215
(720) 524-8164



By Bill Guerriero

I really love this chalet-style office building and suite, which was added to the motel grounds in 1971. I have a soft spot for this style of architecture and the original Stonewall neon sign stands out against the background of the new

FirstBank building. I know that West Colfax is changing rapidly but I'm hoping that this building will be preserved or repurposed even as the area grows. For now, all we can do is take pictures.



LAMAR STATION PLAZA

6431-6791 W Colfax Ave., Lakewood, CO 80214

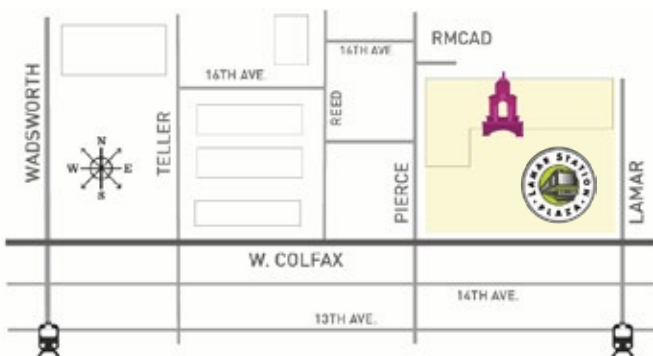
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