Serving the east-metro area including:

> Aurora Centennial **Central Park** Denver DTC

H AM MAR/APR 2023

## nging the 2022 Awards Reci

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce proudly announces the recipients of the 2022 Awards, which will be presented at the Friday, April 7, 2023 Red Carpet Awards Banquet at the Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center, 5-10 pm.

Vom<mark>an of the Year</mark> Kelly Phillips-Henry Dr. Aurora

> Community Leadership Dr. Mordecal Browniee

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To see upcoming Chamber meetings as well as Chamber member events go to the calendar!

**INSIDE** CHAMBER COMMITTEES 3 | RIBBON CUTTINGS 7 | MEMBER NEWS 8

## Chair's Letter

### **Community First, Business Always**

hank you for being a member of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. Your dedication and commitment to our Chamber and business community are greatly appreciated.



Brian Sowl Chair Nelnet

"Community First, Business Always" is our slogan and points toward our greater mission at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. We are determined in our efforts to bring all community partners together for the betterment of all. Simply stated, we help people in all areas of our

community make

connections with each other. The Chamber strives to advance the Eastern Metro area by educating, energizing, and connecting a diverse group of leaders to serve the community. The Chamber has a historical, community-based legacy and a bright future with our member businesses leading the way. We are grateful for all our members and desire for all to prosper and grow in the years ahead.

To help our member businesses, we provide a variety of networking, advertising, educational, and social opportunities. We also support collaborative efforts with other local Chambers, providing additional opportunities for our members to initiate or build business relationships. The Chamber encourages all members to bring forward new ideas on how we can best serve each other to improve our community and our Chamber.

Our main priorities as we start 2023 for the Chamber are:

- Business Always Creating an environment where Eastern Metro businesses thrive with a business-tobusiness mentoring program
- Community First Enhance commerce through community stewardship
- Chamber Strong Creating a strong, sustainable Chamber

The Eastern Metro area is an excellent place to do business and community to live in. As the Chamber Chairman of the Board, I want to encourage you to become active in the community and in our Chamber. Please review our published calendars and our website for opportunities where you can help make a positive difference in our community. Join Chamber members who volunteer in Chamber activities and also participate in the many other community service organizations. As best you can, support our member companies with your business. Remember that local purchases all support our community and our schools. We will continue to pursue excellence in all that we do at The Chamber and in our surrounding communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service to you.

#### Sincerely,

Brian Sowl Aurora Chamber of Commerce Chair, 2022-2023 Nelnet, Director of Security Compliance

## **Chamber**Board

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TREASURER Kelly Phillips-Henry | Aurora Mental Health & Recovery

SECRETARY Joel Boyd | Town Center at Aurora

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VICE CHAIR-COMMUNITY SERVICES Beth Braaten | Colorado Technical University

VICE CHAIR-MEMBER SERVICES Tyrone Adams | Colorado Association of Realtors

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#### STAFF

Kevin Hougen | President & CEO Rene J. Simard | Executive Vice President Naomi Colwell | Finance Director Lynn Myers | Director, Community Relations Alicia Rose | Director of Business Development Mitzi Schindler | Senior Director of Communications

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The mission of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce is to give a voice to the business community and serve as an advocate for its members, creating a positive business environment that encourages their growth and long-term economic vitality

#### DON'T FORGET: "Every employee of a Chamber member is a member of The Chamber" Please route this issue to your sales reps, account managers, marketing directors, HR and PR

departments. You can also access each month's newsletter online at our website, www.aurorachamber.org, so you can forward it to every employee in your company!

## **ChamberCommittees** An Inside Look

#### ARTS + BUSINESS CONNECTION

#### How the Arts Benefit Businesses

#### Tuesday, January 10, 2023

By Mark Smith, PhotoSmith Colorado, and ABC committee chair



To give a cushion of rest after the holidays, The January Arts + Business Connection (ABC) meeting was held one week later than usual. Andrea Barry, director of client success with NINE dot ARTS, presented on the myriad

Andrea Barry

of benefits of the arts to businesses at the January 10 online meeting. NINE dot ARTS is an art consulting company that curates art experiences for businesses, and advocates for art and artists. This meeting helped attendees understand how creative placemaking boosts business and builds community.

Barry began by presenting the concept of being a "Partner in Placemaking." According to Wikipedia, Placemaking is a multifaceted approach to the planning, design, and management of public spaces. NINE dot ARTS focuses on the creative aspect of placemaking by bringing in artwork that provides a memorable experience and marries with the brand of the business. Many businesses are now looking for increased return from a company they spend their money with, and therefore gravitate toward those that can provide products and experiences that reflect the core of the business and its brand story. In this scenario, the client business becomes integrated with the art curated for it.

NINE dot ARTS uses local and emerging artists in venues ranging from community and public spaces to any size business. They collaborate with several partners for projects, including developers, artists, and private and public architects. Barry explained that their 4-stage process for all projects includes social impact, DEIB, budget, and scheduling. She also shared local and national examples of



Curated art at CSU Spur.

work, including the Dairy Block in Downtown Denver, CSU Spur in Denver, and the Midtown Square in Seattle, along with smaller projects such as the Catbird Hotel in Denver.

#### Arts + Science = Entrepreneurship at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science

#### Tuesday, February 7, 2023

By Mark Smith, PhotoSmith Colorado, and ABC committee chair

February of 2023 took Arts + Business Connection to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS) for a look at how the Museum integrates art – in all forms – into exhibits and programs, to spark wonder and curiosity about science and nature. Treloar Bower, the DMNS manager of Adult and Family Experiences and Experience Development, shared anecdotes of moments when music, theater, dance, and creative arts inspired learning, expression, exploration, and discovery in guests of all ages. "Art helps with the learning of scientific concepts and promotes play within science," said Bower.



Treloar Bower shares how art encourages divergent thinking, which supports entrepreneurship. (Photo by Mark Smith, PhotoSmith Colorado)

Bower offered that art supports creativity in science by allowing original ideas and encouraging original questions that further scientific investigations and helps our understanding of the world to grow. Scientists draw on creativity to answer questions such



Art + Science at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. (Photo by Lucas Reilly, DMNS)

as: what is this? What caused this? And how could this happen? Art further supports divergent thinking: the ability to generate many ideas from a single question.

The intersection of art and science sparks entrepreneurship as it fosters original and creative ideas as well as promoting a growth mindset, so important in running a business today. Art also encourages lateral thinking rather than linear. It is in generating multiple ideas and solutions that science AND businesses can find the best one to execute or implement.

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

#### **Colorado Air and Space Port**

#### Wednesday, January 11, 2023

By Tim Harris, Horrocks Engineers, and Transportation committee chair

Jeff Kloska, director of the Colorado Air and Space Port (CASP), and Ryan Nalty, Adams County deputy director of Community and Economic Development provided The

Chamber's Transportation committee with an update about CASP and its relationship in Adams County economic development.

Kloska began by giving an overview of the CASP facility, which includes a combination of airport and future spaceport operations. The 24-hour traditional air operations with more than 50 hangar facilities



CASP boasts the Tallest General Aviation Air Traffic Control Tower in North America (191 Feet).

and 300 based aircraft continues to grow each year and the facility is well-positioned for long-term growth.

Nalty explained the impacts of the aerospace industry in Colorado and some of the current or potential types of spacerelated businesses located at CASP. One example is a firm that is developing and testing a hybrid rocket engine capable of Mach 5 travel that would allow runway-to-orbit travel.

CASP recently completed a Spaceport Master Plan

[continued on page 4]

outlining priorities regarding facility growth, increased manufacturing and testing of 21st century technology and products, and further development of systems for short-haul cargo and passenger needs.



Colorado Air and Space Port is positioned to grow.

#### **City of Aurora Transportation** Wednesday, February 1, 2023

By Tim Harris, Horrocks Engineers, and Transportation committee chair

The City of Aurora's transportation program was presented at the February 2023 meeting by Director of Public Works Cindy Colip,

Traffic Manager Carlie

Campuzano, Transportation Projects Delivery Manager Matt Kozakowski, and Transportation Planning Manager Mac Callison. Colip began the presentation by

emphasizing that the city continues to develop partnerships and pursues completion of prioritized projects through funding provided by DRCOG and federal grant programs. She highlighted the new Division of Development Review within Public Works to improve timeliness and quality of reviews and the 5-Year Pavement Rehabilitation Plan with most of the work in residential neighborhoods.

Campuzano showed technology improvements for traffic signals and progress on the Fiber Optic Master Plan. Two projects on Havana Street, one at 6th Ave. and one including 11th Ave. and Del Mar Parkway, will improve traffic flow and increase safety.



Work being done on the 25th Ave. pedestrian corridor.

Kozakowski gave an update on the new interchange at I-70 and Picadilly Rd., which will begin construction this spring and be completed in the fall of 2025. The recently completed 25th Ave. pedestrian corridor improvements have increased safety and access for nearby residents and businesses.

Callison provided an update on the 13th Ave. corridor project, which involved input from the neighborhood and will increase safety and comfort for the multimodal users of the corridor

#### GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS. **EDUCATION. AND ENERGY** (PUBLIC ISSUES)

#### Legislative Breakfast Kicks Off the 2023 Session

Thursday, January 5, 2023



Left to right: Aurora Chamber President/CEO Kevin Hougen; Aurora Chamber Chair Brian Sowl with Nelnet: and President of Mutch Government Relations William Mutch.

On January 5, the Government Affairs, Education, and Energy committee held the annual Legislative Breakfast to kick off the 2023 Legislative Session. The event, which gathered nearly 100 community and committee members, was hosted and sponsored by the Community College of Aurora, and CCA President Dr. Mordecai Brownlee welcomed everyone to the college.

Legislators in attendance were Senators Janet Buckner (SD 28) and Tom Sullivan (SD



CCA President Dr. Mordecai Brownlee and City of Aurora Interim Police Chief Art Acevedo.



Chamber Board Chair Brian Sowl addresses attendees at the January 5, 2023 Legislative Breakfast.

27), and Representatives Mike Weissman (HD 36) and Rod Bockenfield (HD 56). Many other elected officials including County Commissioners and Aurora Mavor Mike Coffman, and Aurora and Centennial City Council members also spoke about their plans for 2023.

#### Chamber Day at the Capitol Wednesday, February 8, 2023

On February 8, 2023, the Government Affairs, Education, and Energy committee went to the State Capitol for Chamber Day at the Capitol, organized by the Colorado Chamber of Commerce. The day included advocacy training, legislative briefings, and discussions



Viewing the House Chamber from the gallery.

[continued on page 5]



Chamber members gather for Chamber Day at the Capitol.

#### of business priorities.

"Business leaders returned to the dome for the first Chamber Day at the Capitol in more than three years," commented Colorado Chamber Director of Investor Relations Lauren Schwartz. "It was wonderful to see more than 80 business leaders representing local chambers of commerce across Colorado at the State Capitol to share business priorities of their respective communities with elected officials," she added.

#### DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COUNCIL

There were no DE&I meetings in January or February of 2023

#### WOMEN IN BUSINESS

There wasn't a Women in Business meeting in January of 2023

Women in Business is sponsored by KAISER PERMANENTE.

#### WORK WELL 2.0 HEALTH SERIES

SAVE THE DATE: June 8, 2023, 8 - 9:30 am Colorado's Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative event at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus

We need to respond to the staggering increase in substance-use, mental health needs, and substance-related deaths in the American Workforce. To address these issues, the June 8, 2023 event will highlight the work that the University of Colorado School of Public Health's Center for Health, Work and Environment's (CHWE) has done through the Colorado's Recovery Friendly Workplace (RFW) Initiative.

#### Speakers include:

- Chancellor Don Elliman, CU Anschutz Medical Campus
- Heidi Williams, MPA, Director of Opioid Response, Colorado Attorney General's Office
- Rob Valuck, Executive Director, Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
- Kevin Hougen, President and CEO, Aurora Chamber of Commerce

More information about RFW: <u>https://</u> coloradosph.cuanschutz.edu/research-andpractice/centers-programs/chwe/practice/ recovery-friendly-workplace-initiative

#### YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

There wasn't a Young Professionals meeting in January of 2023

#### CEO Panel: Cultivating Professional Growth and Development

#### Wednesday, February 1, 2023

The Chamber's Young Professionals came to the Chamber office for an exclusive Q&A session featuring four Chamber Board of Directors, who volunteered to participate on the panel, mentor the Young Professionals, and help to cultivate their professional growth and development. The four panelists were Brian Sowl, Nelnet; Rebecca Kelley, Plante Moran; Tyrone Adams, Colorado Association of Realtors; and Karen Lovett, UCHealth. Bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience, the panelists answered a variety of questions on topics including hiring practices, leadership styles, and career



YP Executive team with the CEO panelists, left to right: Dana O'Boye, corporate sales manager for Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Denver-Aurora; Karen Lovett, vice president of Operations for UCHealth; Brian Sowl, director of Security Compliance for Nelnet; Rebecca Kelley, partner at Plante Moran; Tyrone Adams, CEO of Colorado Association of Realtors; Alicia Rose, Aurora Chamber staff, and Alec Quaid, financial planner with American Portfolios.

advice for the YP's. The session started with 30 minutes of networking over coffee and cookies, followed by introductions, and transitioned into 1.5 hours of flowing conversation and engaging questions.



It was a full house at the February 2023 Young Professionals' CEO Panel.

#### **DEFENSE COUNCIL**

### Buckley Space Force Base: "State of the Base"

#### Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Colonel Marcus Jackson, Commander of Space Base Delta 2, and Buckley Space Force Base Installation Commander along with Chief Master Sergeant Charles Shurchay, Space Base Delta 2 Senior Enlisted Leader, addressed more than 200 military and community leaders at the annual State of the Base at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Denver-Aurora on January 25. Colonel Jackson and Chief Shurchay highlighted the men and women of Space Base Delta



Left to right: Chief Master Sergeant Charles Shurchay, Space Base Delta 2 Senior Enlisted Leader; Kevin Hougen, president & CEO, Aurora Chamber of Commerce; and Colonel Marcus Jackson, Commander Space Base Delta 2, and Buckley Space Force Base Installation Commander.



Colonel Marcus Jackson and Chief Charles Shurchay address community leaders, Defense Council members, and Rotary Club of Aurora members.

2 in addition to the six major base partners representing "Team Buckley" that play such an important role in our nation's defense: Aerospace Data Facility Colorado, 140th Wing (Air National Guard), Space Delta 4, Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center, Naval Reserve Center Denver, and the Army Aviation Support Facility. Colonel Jackson also announced that in 2022, Buckley's fiscal impact on the local economy was almost \$1.38 billion.

The annual luncheon was organized jointly by the Aurora Chamber Defense Council and the Rotary Club of Aurora. The Community College of Aurora was the Audio-Visual Sponsor. Table sponsors were Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners, Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Aurora Economic Development Council, Aurora Police Department, City of Aurora - Mayor and City Council, Colorado Technical University, DeNOVO Solutions, Leidos, Rotary Club of Aurora, U.S. Department of Labor, and Visit Aurora.

#### Colorado National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility

#### Thursday, February 23, 2023

The February 2023 Defense Council meeting was hosted by the Colorado National Guard's (CONG) Army Aviation Support Facility. Legends of Aurora Sports Grill provided breakfast, which was co-hosted by Fairfield Inn & Suites, Aurora/Denver/ Parker.

Colonel Will Gentle,

director of Aviation and Safety, CONG, welcomed Defense Council members. Colonel Gentle discussed the CONG's search and rescue missions to include mountain rescues and the High Altitude Aviation Training Site (HAATS). HAATS, located in Gypsum, CO, is a school catering to rotary-wing military pilots from all over the world and has hosted and trained helicopter pilots from Slovenia, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany and the Republic of

Georgia. The meeting also consisted of updates from senior military members, and from the Rocky Mountain VA Regional Medical Center and the Colorado Freedom Memorial. Following the meeting, members of the CONG offered a tour of the AASF facility to include up close contact with some of the helicopters.



Aurora City Council Member and Legends of Aurora Sports Grill General Manager Steve Sundberg checks out the cockpit of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter.



Defense Council Members enjoy a tour of the AASF.



#### Leadership Aurora Class of 2019 Get Together

Left to right, back row: Nazan Wolfe, Aurora Mental Health & Recovery; Heidi Fritz; Jamie Pieper, 140th Wing COANG; Marty Garland; Deb Kirschbaum, Priority Properties, Inc. Left to right, front row: Kristin Robinson, Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA); Allen Golden; and Benjamin Focht, Nelnet.



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Ribbon cuttings mean business: **50 Jobs** 



#### E Colfax Art Gallerv and Studios in ACAD

10201 E Colfax Ave., Aurora, CO 80010

Aurora Cultural Arts District (ACAD) Executive Director Bliss Coleman, and ACAD Board President



Stephanie Hancock (left to right, holding the scissors), cut the ribbon for the Grand Opening of the E Colfax Art Gallery and Studios on a chilly afternoon in February 2023. In attendance were Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman and Aurora City Council for Ward 1 Crystal Murillo, Centennial Mayor Stephanie Piko, and Centennial City Council for District 4 Don Sheehan.

The new home for ACAD's Art Gallery and Studios was formerly the oldest liquor store in the State of Colorado. In its new iteration, the space transfers between studio and gallery space, with six movable walls for exhibitions, that can be stored and replaced with tables for studio time and classes. There is also a kiln for pottery and ceramics. The grand opening featured art for purchase by local artists, an original artwork raffle, sandwiches, desserts, and wine. ACAD is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the arts and fostering creativity in the community. The district is home to a vibrant arts community and the new gallery will host workshops, classes, and events, offering opportunities for individuals to immerse themselves in the arts - and to learn new skills. (2/22/2023) http://auroraculture.org (303) 747-6917

Aurora

#### **Chambers Plaza Aurora Public Library**

1551 N. Chambers Road, Aurora, CO 80011 Left to right: Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman, and City Council members Steve Sundberg, Ward II, and Danielle Jurinsky, At-Large, cut the ribbon to mark the Grand Opening of the Chambers Plaza Library. Midori Clark, director of Library and Cultural Services (not pictured), welcomed guests: "This

lives with learning opportunities for the Aurora community; this branch makes library services accessible to neighboring schools as well as the culturally diverse communities in this northeast side of the city," said Clark. Chambers Plaza Library is open from 10 am to 6 pm Monday through Saturday. (1/12/2023) http://www.auroralibrary.org (303) 739-6520.







#### Family Care Center – Englewood

750 W Hampden Ave, Ste 350, Englewood, CO 80110

Cutting the ribbon for the grand opening of the Family Care Center, LLC - Englewood location, left to right: Aurora Chamber President/CEO Kevin Hougen; FCC Regional Director of South Denver Charlton Clarke; Clinic Director Melanie Buckley, MA, LPC, Chief Human Resources Officers Sarah Walker; and Chief Medical Officer Charles Weber, MD. FCC was founded in 2016 with the mission of improving access to mental health care in the local community. Services include counseling, medication management, and Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS). Guests were given tours of the new space, a demonstration of the TMS machine and treated to hors d'oeuvres and beverages. (1/24/2023) https://www. fccwellbeing.com/ (303) 872-1734

## MemberNews

#### Aurora Mental Health Center becomes Aurora Mental Health and Recovery

#### Aurora Mental Health Center becomes Aurora Mental Health and Recovery

Aurora Mental Health and Recovery, formerly Aurora Mental Health Center went through a purposeful rebranding in January 2023.

Because name is the key factor in helping people identify the organization as a resource, the decision to drop "Center" and include "Recovery" in the name was chosen by consensus – especially given the mission of the organization: "Deeply rooted in our diverse community, we deliver state-of-the-art care impacting emotional well-being and addition recovery."

"As we discovered in our research, we had good name recognition with Aurora Mental Health Center, but people were less sure about what we did and where we did it," said Aurora Mental Health and Recovery CEO



Kelly Phillips-Henry. "Of even greater concern, our name did not appear prominently in internet searches for addiction and similar kinds of treatment. In this world of immediate technological access, we were difficult to find," she added.

We chose "Recovery" because it speaks to substance use and addiction in a way that expresses the outcome we strive for with our clients. In that spirit, "Aurora Mental Health & Recovery" couldn't make our aspiration for the people we serve any clearer.

We also acknowledged that "Center" suggests a physical destination where one goes for a particular purpose. The decision was made to drop it from the name because we are not a single place, nor have we been for years. In fact, we are virtually "everywhere." One-third to one-half of our 20,000 clients receive their care via some form of technology (telehealth), with no need to come to a facility or meet with a provider in-person.

Additionally, while we operate 10 distinct care locations across Aurora, we have care staff and other professionals embedded in dozens of community locations: primary care offices, schools, day care and senior living centers, the jail, on-the-scene with law enforcement for crisis response, and our homeless outreach team is always on the move with the people they serve.

We hope that our rootedness in Aurora has fostered the relationships of trust that enable us to seed our services wherever the community needs them. Together we have grown to become Aurora Mental Health & Recovery.



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Education Foundation for the Colorado National Guard Edward Jones - AJ Hayden **Employers Council** eNotaryLog FirstBank - Aurora, Havana Fitzsimons Innovation Community Freund & Company Gilmore Construction GMCO Corporation, Inc Gustafson, Deborah Harmony Master Homeowners Association Heather Gardens Holiday Inn Denver East - Stapleton Homewood Suites by Hilton Denver International Airport HR Green Hyatt House Denver/Aurora at Anschutz Medical Campus InSPIRE Corporation L&L Hawaiian Barbecue La Cueva Restaurant Landtech Contractors, Inc Legends of Aurora Sports Grill Leidos Lumen Nelnet Northrop Grumman Page, Polly Pinnacol Assurance Red Rocks Self Storage Renaissance Denver Central Park Hotel Republic Services Senior Benefit Services Southlands Special Olympics Colorado Stampede Summit Event Center The Aurora Highlands The Boy Scouts of America The Center on Colfax The Denver 100 LLC - Tim Hoyman Tint World Aurora Trice Global LLC

UCHealth UCHealth ER – Commerce City UCHealth ER – Green Valley Medical Center USO Denver Visit Denver West & Main Homes – Bev Marsh Westside Investment Partners Wings Over the Rockies Museum WSP USA Inc Xcel Energy YMCA



Armstrong Relocation / Amazing Moves Aurora Cultural Arts District Aurora Fitzsimons Rotary Club Babu's **Big Air Trampoline Park** Breakthru Beverage College H.U.N.K.S. Hauling Junk & Moving Colorado Traffic Control Donor Alliance **Every Child Pediatrics** Fyzical Therapy & Balance Centers - Greenwood Center HDR High Altitude Play LTD Intron Systems Northeast Transportation Connections Providence Financial & Insurance **Rumble Boxing** Sarah Gies Studio Sater, Joe Signature Heating & Air Conditioning SUMMIT PAYMENTS Unite Private Networks Vasa Fitness

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## The Aurora Fox Arts Center Ends

## WITH TWO STUNNING SHOWS





MARCH 10 - APRIL 2 Written by Lydia R. Diamond



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