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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Newly Renovated 11,000 s.f. arts building set to open in 40 West Arts District, providing a permanent home for its creative community and visitors.**

Lakewood, CO – 40 West Arts District, in partnership with the Lakewood-West Colfax Business Improvement District, is set to open a recently purchased and newly renovated 11,000 square foot building in the heart of the district, at 6501 W. Colfax Avenue in Lakewood. The building is proximal to multiple amenities including local bus routes, the West Line Lamar Light Rail Station, shopping and dining options, and the iconic Casa Bonita Mexican-themed restaurant, which is set to open under new management in late 2022.

The Lakewood-West Colfax Business Improvement District (BID) recognized the need for real estate acquisition in the district for many years, understanding that owning property in this highly desirable area is critical to the longevity and vitality of the arts district and its many creative destinations. The BID partnered with First Bank, headquartered in Lakewood's West Colfax corridor, on the loan to purchase the property.

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, 40 West Arts was responsible for raising the funds needed for the building renovations and is thrilled to count among its many funding partners Colorado Creative Industries, the Lakewood Reinvestment Authority, the Lakewood-West Colfax BID, Community First Foundation, and Gates Family Foundation. Building renovations slated to be completed in April of 2022, with a soft opening scheduled for First Friday May 6th and an official grand opening to occur on First Friday June 3rd, in conjunction with one of the district's signature events, a Colfax Art Crawl.

The building, formerly the much beloved Denver Drumstick but shuttered for decades, will serve as the new headquarters for 40 West Arts District, Lakewood's only state-certified creative district, and will be the new home to galleries relocating there, including 40 West Gallery, Core New Art Space, EDGE Gallery, Kanon Collective, Lakewood Arts (Lakewood's longest continuously operating arts organization), Next Gallery and Red Herring Art & Supply.

"This is a realization of a dream for our community," expressed 40 West Art Board Chair Bill Marino. "With real estate values continuing to rise, the purchase of this building ensures the sustainability of our arts district for years to come." Marino added, "as a part of our ongoing renaissance, we wanted West Colfax to be a destination again. This building supports our mission to create arts-related destinations that celebrate our creative community, provide free arts experiences for patrons, and add vitality to our historic corridor."

40 West Arts Executive Director Liz Black further notes "one of the strengths of 40 West Arts is our long-standing and deep connection to our business improvement district. They are keenly aware of the importance of maintaining the arts. Arts districts serve to activate, empower, and connect local communities, and they create a sense of place, drive visitors to an area, and spur local economic activity. For all these reasons, 40 West Arts is essential to the City of Lakewood and the entire West Metro region."

While this building will serve as an anchor for the district, Liz Black is quick to note that the building is just one of many creative locations that make up the entirety of the arts district. "We are thrilled to support and promote all of our creative destinations including Pirate: Contemporary Art, Mint & Serif Coffeehouse, and

40 West Studios, among others. This new building will only add to the wide range of galleries, creative businesses, studios and more that make up our community. We are lucky to count each and every one of them as a key component of our district.”

Visitors to 40 West Arts and the new building should look for a slate of programming to kick off in early Summer of 2022 and continue throughout the year. Learn more by visiting 40westarts.org or following us on Facebook (@40westarts).

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About 40 West Arts

40 West Arts is a non-profit, state-certified creative district along Lakewood’s historic West Colfax Avenue with the mission of energizing West Colfax through community art spaces, experiences, exhibitions, and events that engage the whole family. We are an inclusive organization with a commitment to creativity that inspires artistic experimentation for both the novice and professional, and expands the creative, cultural, entrepreneurial, economic, and physical vitality of our community. Create, connect, and celebrate with us. Visit 40WestArts.org to learn more.

About the Lakewood-West Colfax Business Improvement District (the BID)

In partnership with the City of Lakewood, the BID was established 2011 to help revitalize West Colfax into a vibrant destination where locals and visitors come to create fresh opportunities, connect with diverse experiences, and celebrate culture, both old and new. As an advocate for economic vitality, the BID maintains active partnerships with community organizations including the West Colfax Community Association and 40 West Arts. By providing these organizations with an operational platform and a stable funding source, the BID and its partners have a clear message that is both a vision and an invitation to all who wish to join in the journey: Experience Lakewood’s West Colfax—a creative community . . . come and be a part of the renaissance! Learn more at GoWestColfax.org.

About the 40 West ArtLine

Also part of Lakewood’s West Colfax corridor is The 40 West ArtLine is a free, outdoor four-mile arts adventure that encompasses 70+ art installations (and growing) and connects visitors and residents to three local Northeast Lakewood parks, local restaurants, shops, and other amenities. Funded by a National Endowment for the Arts grant and the Lakewood W. Colfax BID, the ArtLine is family-friendly, inclusive, and open to all. It has transformed the physical landscape of Lakewood’s West Colfax corridor into a vibrant destination. Details at 40WestArtLine.org.