



December 15, 2020

Dear West Colfax District Business and Property Owners,

Over the course of 2020, in our many interactions with business and property owners, we have heard the strains and stresses of closures, reduced capacity, reduced demand and new protocols undertaken to ensure you, your employees, and customers are safe. We thank you for all you do to keep pushing on and making West Colfax the great place that it is. Your business is a key part of our community and the West Colfax BID is working hard to support you in these challenging times.

We have focused the BID's efforts to find, apply for, and distribute assistance for you and so far we have awarded close to \$500,000 in grants. Only two BIDs in Denver have received COVID-relief funding to award small business grants, and we have been pleased to be able to offer WCBID businesses grants between \$5,000 and \$20,000. We have distributed PPE going door-to-door and checked-in with business owners and employees. We have researched, shared, and provided step-by-step guidance on COVID-management, financial resources, and grant opportunities to ensure businesses were as competitive as possible on grants and resources. We will continue to bring all available resources to the BID in 2021.

If you have benefited from our efforts, then we are happy to have been able to help. If you have not yet worked with us, we would like to better connect with you and see how we can get support for you. Please sign up for our **newsletter** at www.westcolfaxbid.org, where you will find the latest COVID relief updates. Also let me know if you'd like to be included in our emails to businesses and property owners. You can email me directly at dshah@westcolfaxBID.com.

If you have other ideas on ways that we can support you or connect with you, please reach out at our contact information below.

Covid-19 Response

- Awarded \$474,530 to 36 CBID businesses to date. Our business grants went to the full diversity of Colfax businesses, from auto repairs to tattoo parlors, restaurants and ice cream shops.
- Distributed \$8,000 in PPE Kits and face masks.
- Sponsored 8 highly successful Sloans Farm & Flea markets, new this year and sure to continue.
- Sponsored Joy Bomb Parade and mask give-away (pictured).
- Championed expedited process so that 6 businesses could expand to outdoor dining, including providing technical assistance on applications.
- Participated in COVID response councils to align City policy to small business needs & priorities, making sure small business concerns were heard for planning and response actions.
- Assisted dozens of businesses in obtaining CBID and other grants and loans, including PPP.
- Assisted the beloved, historic Lake Steam Baths with financing and variance request for return to fuller operations and re-opening in the face of health department closure.



Organized Mayoral tour of WCBID, here with Hector Hugo at Los Mesones (Michael Hancock with Eric Hiraga, director economic development), to highlight business response to Covid-19.



WCBID Treasurer Dennis Gonzalez (right) delivering a grant check to Miguel Firo of Firo Autohaus.



WCBID lobbied for expedited patio approvals, and then provided technical support to get this patio at Los Mesones approved.



Joy Bomb Parade by West Colfax's Handsome Little Devils (with mask giveaway)

Look for more details on grants in 2021, with new opportunities from the City and the State coming in January, and the potential for WCBID grants later in the year. Email me if you want to be included in our regular emails to businesses and property owners.

Grant recipients testimonials:

We just wanted to thank you for all of your hard work in WCBID. We appreciate all that you do. The grants that you were able to gather on WCBID's behalf are amazing and life changing in this current pandemic. It is for us and we are sure all other businesses agree. When Dennis brought by our grant on Monday we were speechless and in tears. There are no words to express the gratitude and relief we feel. We were not sure we could keep going and we were so worried for our employees and customers. So Dan, like you, this grant has a ripple effect and we wanted you to know that. We have ordered an event tent that is snow load rated and with the remainder we will be able to continue Covid pay to our employees as we are on reduced hours and capacity.

Sincerely, Bryan and Jolene Knight, Viking Bar

Oh my goodness, THANK YOU!!!!!!

Tim went over to Duality tonight and opened your letter. We are Blown away!!!! We are so incredibly grateful, touched and honored to have received the grant. It will help us pay our staff for the next couple of months and continue to offer wellness and fitness to this community. Surviving during this time has been challenging - but we have never stopped fighting for our purpose to serve. To be a beacon of light and center of wellness for West Colfax. We love what we do and will continue to fight - and we are so grateful to be a part of such an incredible, supportive neighborhood. THANK YOU!!!!

How and who can we say "thank you" to for the grant and for helping us stay afloat during this incredibly challenging time?

-Jen Sevcik

Thanks to these partners in our efforts:

- Department of Local Affairs, who administered the Covid Relief special district grant program that funded our small business grants.
- The Economic Recovery Committees that have created a direct forum for WCBID and other BIDs to shape City policy that is more responsive to the needs of small businesses
- DRCOG and our partners at CDOT, RTD, the City, Denver Streets Partnership and Kaiser Permanente who've enabled us to secure \$200,000 in funding and a top consultant team to study options and strategies to transform the Colfax Viaduct into a place where bikes and pedestrians can comfortably travel.
- Colorado Restaurant Association - who we collaborated with to create an expedited process for setting up new outdoor patios in the spring.

Beyond the immediate needs of Covid-19 response, our long-term efforts to increase sustainability and public safety on West Colfax this year are still moving forward. This year we added [solar lighting for our transit shelters](#), with a grant from the Xcel Renewable Energy Trust. We also are now embarking on a [study of improved pedestrian and bicycle connections on the Colfax Viaduct](#), care of a \$200,000 grant from DRCOG.

Look for more on Colfax Viaduct in 2021. We will, as always, keep a close eye out for funds to support our businesses and district vitality, working on both short term and long term goals for the WCBID. Please keep in touch so we can continue to share opportunities and information to support you.

Best,

Dan Shah
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Newly added solar lighting for WCBID bus shelters.