

BuCu West

Development Association

Where Business Meets Culture

Kitchen Network | Creative District | Westwood Chile Fest | Local Business | Support Local

Our Mission: BuCu West is working to create a destination that promotes and supports entrepreneurs, small business, cultural organizations and residents in the development of an authentic, energetic and colorful environment.



Kitchen Network

On any given morning at the Kitchen Network, located on the Morrison Road Corridor, you can expect to see the eclectic mix of over 170 entrepreneurs busily creating their cuisine specialties. Erick Garcia, the Director of Operations, oversees the processes of this innovative cookery hub. Joel, the Maintenance Manager, works full-time meeting the diverse needs of such a versatile building. Many of Denver's favorite food trucks spend their mornings hard at work preparing for the day ahead. The energy is inspirational at the Kitchen Network as cuisine connoisseurs from all over Colorado journey together under one building to bring their businesses and dreams to life. Erick, the first, full-time, bilingual Director of Operations, is particularly eager to offer additional business support into this Spanish-speaking community. As a social enterprise of Westwood's non-profit community development corporation, BuCu West, the

Kitchen Network reinvests its resources to support businesses and improve the corridor as a whole. An economic engine at the heart of Westwood, the Kitchen Network functions as a catalyst for some of the most creative dreamers, builders and doers in our city to provide innovative, diverse, and fresh food options all over the front range.

Thanking West Denver's Homegrown Champion for Working Families

Taking office in 2007, as the youngest person ever to be elected in Denver, Councilman Paul Lopez used his background as an organizer to work with community partners to bring much needed investment to the district.

Morrison Road has been the focus for much of BuCu West's work and with the support and advocacy of López, there have been significant improvements to landscaping and speed calming elements. In the near future, implementation of the Morrison Road Streetscape plan will be included as part of the over \$50 million in bond investment coming to Westwood. Acquiring dilapidated properties, creating better public spaces, including the first park in 30 years, and improving city services are just a few of the major efforts led by Councilman López that have specifically improved the Westwood neighborhood for residents. These efforts have impacts that will be felt for decades to come by the southwest Denver community.

Much has changed since Councilman López took office; and, the collaborative relationship BuCu West created with him has been instrumental to the neighborhood's accomplishments. While it is sad to see him move on, we wish him the best on his next venture.

To build on the foundation that was laid out, it is paramount that businesses, community members and supporters of Westwood stay engaged with the next representative. To find out how you can be involved in BuCu's efforts and May's election, contact us.



"Councilman Lopez (center), leads tour of Westwood with resident leaders and national experts." © Urban Land Institute

Thank you, From BuCu West's Board of Directors and Staff

May: From the Earth

This exhibit focused on all things “From The Earth.” It was an open exhibit that attracted almost 35 artists from around the Denver area. We collaborated with our Community Partner Re:Vision, the Urban Farm organization here on Morrison Road. We had an amazing opening reception with local Aztec Dancers from Santiago Jaramillo’s group. Children’s art classes were held on a few weekends which focused on painting and planting.



June: Goddess Redefined I



The Goddess Redefined show was curated by Mari Munet and represented real, ‘Down to Earth’ women’s virtues. The show rendered real examples of how females contribute to society

by expressing sensibility, creativity, intuition, community, strength, ‘spirit’ and deep connection with Earth, universe and all. The real goddesses are far from perfect, but the artists were truly amazing, magnificent and represent the female principle beautifully.

Conference Room Gallery

In February of 2018, we launched a mini art gallery in our community conference room. Each art exhibit runs for two months. We started the year with a colorful exhibit by local artist Daniel



Luna who was one of five exhibits throughout the year to share beautiful artwork with the Westwood Community. We ended 2018 with an exhibit called, “Celebrating Westwood



Creatives,” featuring some of the artists who have created public art and murals in Westwood. We are excited to continue these exhibits in 2019 with a great line-up of local artists. Please stop in for more information!

July: Frida Kahlo

The Frida Kahlo exhibit was celebrated the whole month of July, and was a partnership with The Empress and Re:Vision. The event included a colorful art exhibit with guest curators, David & Velia Martinez of East Los Arte. Almost 100 pieces of art were entered into our exhibit, with pieces in all mediums including paintings, drawings, sculpture and mixed media. We had over 50 local Westwood and Denver area artists participate.



Another partner, Journey Through Our Heritage Program from Metropolitan State University recruited students from their program to exhibit original artwork and volunteer for our event. We had student work as well as emerging and established artists participate. The opening included a Frida look-a-like contest, vendors, live music and locally made food attracting over 1000 people from all over Colorado.



Community Engagement Workshop

In August of 2018, in Partnership with Art Students League of Denver, we had the pleasure of working with Artist Liene Borque, originally from Sao Paulo, Brazil. The workshop included an interactive clay impression workshop involving businesses, youth, and others from our



community. We were given clay tiles, and walked around making impressions of things found in Westwood. Once the tiles were fired, they were installed on a beautiful wall display on the Northeast corner of South Perry street and Morrison Road. We love that the community will walk or drive by and see their amazing creations on display.

Westwood: Chile Fest

The Westwood Chile Fest (WCF) was on September 8th, 2018. The event was focused on “Makers, celebrating the local community of Westwood“.



This year’s event brought back favorites such as a chile pepper-eating contest, chile roaster and farmer’s market. With new attractions, like the Denver Parks and Recreation Climbing Wall and Multi-Cultural Opening Ceremony, residents and visitors were welcomed to explore the festival and join in the community celebration.



The community shared in local food, drinks, music and entertainment throughout the event. Unit E productions

gathered artists from Southwest Denver to showcase the diverse musical backgrounds of Westwood. The streets were filled with vibrant colors and items for purchase from over 75 vendor booths including local businesses, artists, non-profits and corporate booths.



Live Art Demonstrations Denver Artist Anthony Garcia live painted saran wrap murals creating beautiful

works of art and great photo locations. Local Artist Rudi Monterroso performed live dance painting creating floral paintings and inspiring visitors to stop and enjoy his artistry.

November: Dia De Los Muertos



Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebrations were all over Colorado in 2018 and Denver’s Westwood Creative Arts District highlighted the day by uniting comunidad through ritual and art. Old Denver and The Empress hosted the event. The whole family was invited to partake in this indigenous celebration that

honored and remembered loved ones who have continued their journey into the afterlife. This cultural art event included a traditional Aztec ceremony and procession by Captin Cuauhtemoc Mosqueda de Mexico Tenochtitlan, art show, face-painting, sugar-skull mask decorating, pan de muerto cooking classes, a car show hosted by Compas Car Club, and festive bites.



New Mural on Morrison Road

The newest addition to Morrison Road is a mural by Artist Mari Munet. “Las Mañanitas’ is a well-known song sung by the people of México. This is the most popular song



Mexicanos sing as a birthday wish, and it is been part of the Mexican tradition since the early 1900’s. Many Latin American countries have acquired this song as theirs since it has such a poetic metaphor about birth. The lyrics speak to the joy and importance of birth.

‘Las Mañanitas’ is an art piece that has 10 suns surrounding 9 trees. In Mari’s work as an artist she includes sacred geometry, numerology and specific color vibrations as part of her art content. Make sure to stop at South Perry Street and Morrison Road to see this vibrant addition to the street.

Stay Involved: 4200 Morrison Road Unit 3, Denver, CO 80219
Contact: info@bucuwest.com or 303-936-4302

Westwood: SUPPORT LOCAL

Facade Program

The Morrison Road façade program is a grant created and managed by BuCu West to help Morrison Road businesses update their building exterior and improve the overall built environment within the Morrison Road commercial corridor.

The long term goal of the façade program is to build a street experience that will continue to draw new visitors to the commercial corridor and to preserve the existing neighborhood culture. Please come talk to us about your project!

Match grants will range from \$2,000-\$4,000, and must be completed within the calendar year. Proposals will be evaluated based on impact, innovation and alignment with the local business vision.



One Stop Bike Shop



Every so often a community is blessed with lifelong members who establish businesses which serve, support, and engage at the local level. Tom Padilla at One Stop Bike

Shop on Morrison Road is one of those invaluable members. For over twenty-eight years, Tom has been repairing, tuning-up, rebuilding, customizing, and selling bicycles to the neighborhood of Westwood and beyond. He has found his home along the Morrison Corridor because he knew his neighborhood needed a bike store. With the largest population of youth in the city of Denver, the need for his shop in Westwood is even more true today.

Tom's kindness and generosity is matched by his extensive knowledge and passion for bikes. His skills in repairs, rebuilds and customized-bikes along with one of the largest inventories of bicycles in the city makes One Stop Bike Shop a must-stop business on the Morrison Corridor.



City Services Call 311

Graffiti, permitting, zoning, licenses, assessments, official city documents, city and county reports, court dates, claim process and case status.

Morrison Rd Maintenance District & Business Support Information.....303-936-4302

Landscape Weed Management

As administrator of the Maintenance District, we continue to strive for a clean and weed free right of way. The district is allowed to maintain the public right of way from property line to curb. As a business owner, if you need support in weed management within your property boundary, from property line to your building, please reach out to us. Our contractor is willing to negotiate additional small contracts with business owners to maintain private property, which could save you time and money.

2019 Schedule of Events

The Westwood Creative District is excited for 2019! If you are interested in showing your art, having a vendor booth, volunteering, or have any questions about the Westwood Creative District Events email Crystal O'Brien, our Art Development Coordinator at Crystal@bucuwest.com.

Upcoming Exhibits for 2019:

- May - From The Earth
- July - Frida Kahlo, a Celebration of Life
- October - Muertos in Westwood
- November/December - Holiday Mercado



Westwood Chile Fest: Sept. 7th, 2019

Mark your calendars!
For more info or to become a vendor visit www.bucuwestchilefest.com



For more information follow us on Facebook and Instagram @bucuwest @westwoodcreativedistrict or visit bucuwest.com.

Extreme Yard Care

A Social Enterprise of Extreme Community Makeover located in the heart of the Morrison Corridor is providing the following:

- Affordable lawn care services- mowing, trimming, edging, blowing, aerating, weed & feed, yard clean up, and more
- Employs residents of the local community to keep economic growth at home.



To learn more or to contract for services contact Caleb at 720.598.2846 or www.extremeyardcare.org