

20 January 2026

Dear Members of the Denver Planning Board and Denver City Council:

We are writing as members of the Southwest Area Plan Advisory Committee to express enthusiastic support for the SW Area Plan submitted by the City and County of Denver's Community Planning and Development (CPD) department.

We are business owners, community organizers, nonprofit staff, registered neighborhood organization delegates, and longtime residents who have collaborated with CPD's talented team since July 2024.

We love living and working in Southwest Denver, and that love of this unique place is what led many of us to serve on this committee. Our neighborhoods are home to the best Vietnamese and Mexican cuisine in town; the most culturally vibrant block parties and summer concerts; lakes and waterways that are vital stopovers for Denver's migratory birds; some of the highest rates of commercial real estate ownership in the Asian and Latino communities in Colorado; high-rated schools full of hardworking teachers and caregivers; multiple community centers that serve elderly residents, families, and youth; and dozens of markets, carnicerías and specialty grocers that sell fresh food you might not find anywhere else.

Our first task on the advisory committee was ensuring that our friends and neighbors had a meaningful say in shaping the vision for how we live, work, play in this corner of Denver for the next 20 years. We commend CPD in their many steps in this process to prioritize equity, including

- Organizing a working group specifically focused on equity and inclusion,
- Hiring promotoras and community navigators who performed outreach in Spanish, Vietnamese and other languages,
- Listening through a seemingly unending variety of events: pop-ups, public meetings, RNO workshops, focus groups, and high school lessons and field trips,
- Conducting surveys in multiple languages and formats, while also adapting them over time to be more accessible.

We believe this equitable approach to listening resulted in themes that reflect our communities diverse needs. The six themes that our friends and neighbors identified speak to our neighborhoods' unique histories, reflect our current needs and priorities, and chart a path for a shared future: Diverse Cultural Hubs, Safe Communal Spaces, Integrated Industry, Housing Stability and Options, Improved Infrastructure, and Natural Resources. Each of these themes includes detailed recommendations for our neighborhoods based on community need and input.

Any public process has the potential to be overly complex for everyday residents, to overlook certain communities, and to get bogged down in the process. We are grateful to say that the SW Area Plan process was able to avoid all of these pitfalls, and to create recommendations that we are genuinely excited about for our neighborhoods. We wholeheartedly support it and

recommend that you support its adoption. With your approval of this area plan, we look forward to continuing to be involved as it is implemented.

Sincerely,

Paul Bindel,
Dexter Schiller
Maryann Adams
Stephanie Salazar-Rodriguez
Lia Campbell
Rebecca Greek
Nora Bland