

Denver City Council
1437 Bannock Street
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Denver City Council Members:

The Colorado State University System has a long-standing commitment to the Globeville, Elyria, and Swansea (GES) neighborhoods, home to the CSU Spur campus at the National Western Center. From its conception as part of the larger NWC project, Spur was envisioned as an anchor institution that would engage as a good neighbor and community partner while helping to bring high-quality jobs and economic opportunities to the surrounding area.

While CSU Spur has engaged in the community for over a decade and driven significant local economic impact since its opening, the true fulfillment of that vision depends on completing the next phase of the NWC as long planned. In only its first two years of being fully operational, Spur has become a key component of the educational ecosystem in Denver, drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors to engage in hands-on learning about food, water, and health. But the Equestrian Center, Hotel, Housing, and Parking Garage project is essential to the long-term viability of the NWC and our ability to deliver on the full promise of this historic, voter-approved collaboration.

The Equestrian Center project is a critical component of our campus and business model. It is foundational not only to the Center's long-term financial sustainability but also to fulfilling our mission of creating a year-round hub for education, innovation, and Western heritage, for which voters approved funding in 2015. These facilities will enhance our ability to attract diverse programming, events, and visitors that generate economic activity—while remaining deeply rooted in the identity and traditions of the GES community.

As chancellor of the CSU System, and on behalf of the System as a whole, I strongly urge you to honor the will of the voters – and the interests of GES and Denver – and approve this project. Thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,



Dr. Tony Frank
Chancellor



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EDUCATING YOUTH
(A Non-Profit Corporation)

Doug Jones
Chairman, Western Stock Show Association
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303-594-6008

May 14, 2025

Denver City Council
1437 Bannock Street
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Denver City Council Members,

As a proud partner of the Globeville, Elyria, and Swansea (GES) neighborhoods, I am writing to express my strong support for the Equestrian Center, Hotel, Housing, and Parking Garage project—an important and long-awaited next step in the voter-approved project.

This project has deep roots in the voices of our neighborhoods. On the Equestrian Center project, GES residents have been at the table—sharing ideas, advocating for our families and future, and working side by side with the National Western Center Authority, city leaders and partners to make sure that this plan reflects our values and priorities. I've seen firsthand the time, energy, and hope my neighbors have poured into this effort, and I'm proud of what we've built together and I'm grateful for the outreach efforts of the Authority.

Completing this next phase will do more than deliver new amenities; it will bring needed housing, jobs, and economic opportunities into our neighborhoods. It will also help honor the history and culture that make GES such a unique and vital part of Denver. We have come a long way but have a long road ahead. We know this project advancement will help further our goals and aspirations as a community.

I urge you to approve this project and keep the momentum moving forward. Thank you for your commitment and support of our GES community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "DJ", representing Doug Jones.

Doug Jones
Chairman, Western Stock Show Association

4655 Humboldt Street, Denver, Colorado 80216-2818
Phone (303) 297-1166 Fax (303) 292-1708

nationalwestern.com

Hello City council members,

my name is Angela Garcia, Globeville Resident ,resident also of Globeville Elyria Swansea in District 9

I come to you for the third time this month regarding the expansion of the National Western.

\$800 million is slated to be approved for the expansion of National Western including a equestrian center, horse stalls, hotel, parking lot and workforce housing

As a member of the community investment fund for GES (CIF) and as a resident, I find it appalling that the CIF has been offered \$9 million - over the course of 40 years. This will equate to \$225,000 per year over the span of 40 years, over which I will be 100 years old at that time.

Please be advised if I'm still alive at that time I will still be advocating for the betterment of my community.

I digress, the monies for the CIF are mainly round up dollars from the stock show, the 16 days it is in town, these monies are from concessions from people drinking their beer, eating a burger, there will also be round up fees from the hotel and the parking garage.

I would like to address the round up fees at concession stands. Last year I attended my first rodeo and probably the second time I attended the stock show since I was a child.

Of course as a member of the CIF, I was looking specifically for signs about the round up fees. I found small 5 x 5 signs at the food cashiers, I found a sign at the ticket window, however they were not large enough for the visible eye to see. It was also difficult for the cashiers to be able to find where to put the round up dollars.

I was not asked if I wanted to do the round up.

The CIF did meet with SSA (they are the ticket and concessions people) to talk to them and the employees about the CIF

I absolutely understand that the cashiers are extremely busy trying to get people through who are hungry, thirsty and anxious to see the stock show.

I contacted Brad Buchanan and Lori Laurita from the National Western Authority to ask for the future to be pop-up banners that are placed at all the ticket windows and at the food cashiers. I also asked that a banner be placed in stock show areas to explain what the community investment fund is and does.

In the event that council members are unaware of what the CIF is/does, I am including our website:

<https://www.gescommunityinvestmentfund.org/>

In city Council meeting last Monday, May 12, council President Sandoval mentioned that council had received information from the authority late and there was not enough time to properly review it.

I would like to advise council that this continuously happens with the authority, and now with the Mayor's Office (NWCO), in meetings with the CIF, in the community advisory committees, in the community benefits meetings.

I've been involved in the community advisory committees and the benefits committee for about seven or eight years now.

I can tell you that we were not advised of the equestrian center hotel etc. until we're actually in meetings with the authority.

CM Watson and Council Aide Kholghy Thursday, May 15 were witness to some of the hostilities that happened between the authority the Mayor's Office (NWCO) and the CIF. This happens consistently we have asked for clarification and answers to questions and we are treated as though we do not know what we're doing or talking about. Additionally in this meeting, we were presented with a slide that was not given to us beforehand, our project manager Shannon Hoffman mentioned to Steve Nalley that we've never seen this slide before. He stated "oh that's because I just made it five minutes ago".

This is what happens in the community advisory and benefits committees, we never know what's going to happen until it happens.

I recall being in a meeting and Steve Nalley casually saying "oh and by the way we're gonna build a hotel", several of us were taken aback and surprised. This happened again in March's meeting, I believe, when they announced they were going to do workforce housing, again we were all taken aback and surprised. When asked for further clarification, The authority and the Mayor's Office didn't have any

I had to look that information up on my own.

I'm aware that anything having to do with money is always going to be contentious. However, I feel that \$9 million over the course of 40 years equaling out to \$225,000 per year is absolutely ridiculous.

Currently homes in GES are selling for \$300,000 and up.

Many of us know what it's like to live in the red, as Brad Buchanan consistently tell us that the authority does, I live in a community that has been overlooked, dismissed and ignored not for years, not for decades, but for generations and if amount of monies is insulting.

I hope that as you look at our website, the \$80,000 that was given to community last year, all the amazing things that my neighbors did with that \$80,000, because we know what it's like to live in the red.

It was an opportunity for many to make our community better, as you know GES has the lowest tree canopy, so an organization worked with young people and Denver Water to open up the fire hydrant to water new trees that have been planted, a bakery that has been in Globeville for 30 years, was able to secure funds to put in air conditioning, another Swansea a resident wanted to make bike safety a priority, he's done that and he is now looked to by community for all biking needs and questions.

These are just a small amount of things that my neighbors in Globeville Elyria Swansea can do, with their creative ideas, dreams, hopes that they have buried in their hearts and minds so that they can finally come to Fruition!!

So tonight on your vote, I encourage you to think of all the creatives, the dreamers the doers, in GES who want to create change in a neighborhood that I've stated many times has been overlooked and dismissed for so long.

Many of our young people were involved in making some of these ideas from last year reality.

There is saying we do things for seven generations in to the future I would hope that these young people, and if they choose to have children, that they will be able to remain in this community and be able to build off of their parents and their grandparents dreams are able to come to fruition through the Community investment fund of GES.

This is why I ask for more for the community investment fund for those seven generations in the future.

Thank you for your time,

Angela Garcia

May 19, 2025

Letter of Support and Community Concern

From: Residents of Globeville, Elyria, and Swansea (GES)

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written by a group of residents from the Globeville, Elyria, and Swansea (GES) neighborhoods to express both our support for the National Western Center and our concern about the transparency and accessibility of the Community Investment Fund (CIF).

We support the National Western Center because we have seen a genuine intention to uplift our neighborhoods, through the promise of dignified jobs, the development of a future community center, and ongoing engagement with residents. Many of us have participated in conversations, community events, and have witnessed the effort to include local voices in shaping these projects. That gives us hope.

At the same time, we feel the need to speak up about an issue that continues to concern many of us: the CIF. Although this fund was created for the benefit of our community, the reality is that most residents in GES still don't even know it exists. From what we've observed, funding consistently goes to the same groups, often led or influenced by individuals with ties to the CIF or outside organizations. Meanwhile, the majority of residents have no access to the process, little to no information, and are rarely included in funding decisions.

This is not the first time we've seen resources enter our neighborhoods only to be managed by a handful of the same people or organizations, many of whom are not from GES. The result is a pattern of exclusion, where those who have lived here the longest are the last to know, and often receive the least.

We are not against the CIF. On the contrary, we believe it has great potential. But that potential will only be realized if the fund becomes more transparent, more inclusive, and more accountable to the people it was meant to serve. We need better outreach, equitable distribution, and a clear pathway for true community participation, especially from longtime residents who are too often left out.

Our support for the National Western Center comes with the hope that these patterns can begin to change. We believe in collaboration. We believe in equity. And we believe that community work must be rooted in trust and honesty.

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter and hear our voices.

Signed,

Nancy Santos
Sandra Ruíz Parrilla
Olga Montellano
Maria Saucedo
Víctor Castorena
Don Juanito
Rebeca
Luz Divina
Meri López
Maribel Rodríguez
Anabel Rodríguez

Letter of Support

From: Isaac Cruz

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello, my name is Isaac Cruz. I am a long-time resident of the GES community, and I'm writing to express my support for the projects at the National Western Center because I truly believe they represent hope and opportunity, not just for young adults like me, but for people of all ages in our neighborhoods.

These projects are not only about jobs; they're about learning, growth, and creating something meaningful in a place that has long been overlooked. I've lived in both Elyria and Globeville, and I've experienced the daily struggles that so many of us face: lack of access, limited resources, and missed opportunities.

That's why I see so much potential in these projects. I believe they can help bring new life and possibility to our community, but only if we, the people of GES, remain involved and are truly included every step of the way.

Of course, these projects won't fix everything. Real progress also depends on support from the City of Denver, and on each of us doing our part to improve Elyria, Globeville, and Swansea. But I'm confident the National Western Center can help move us forward in a positive direction.

I've had the chance to meet members of the NWC leadership, and I've seen their sincere efforts to listen and engage with our community. They're not perfect, but no human is. We all make mistakes, and what matters is learning and growing from them. What I've seen is that they're really trying, and that effort means something. It makes a difference when people show up, stay consistent, and genuinely want to understand the people they serve.

As someone who lives here, I want to see my community grow with pride, not be left behind. I believe these projects can help open doors that have been closed for too long. We deserve that chance.

Sincerely,

Isaac Cruz

Resident of Globeville-Elyria-Swansea

Tracy Weil

Chair, RiNo Art District

1320 27th St. G, Denver, CO 80205

tracy@weilworks.com | 303-913-7508



May 15, 2025

Denver City Council

c/o Councilman Watson, District 9

1437 Bannock St., Room 451

Denver, CO 80202

Dear Honorable Members of Denver City Council,

As Chair of the RiNo Art District, I am writing in strong support of the renewal of the RiNo Business Improvement District (BID). On behalf of our board, members, and the broader creative and business community, I want to underscore the value and importance of the BID and the essential services it provides to the district.

The BID has played a critical role in maintaining cleanliness, supporting mobility, and ensuring thoughtful infrastructure improvements that benefit everyone in our area—including Five Points, Elyria-Swansea, Globeville, and Cole. These services directly contribute to the health and vitality of the RiNo Art District. We've seen firsthand how they help make our district a more welcoming, accessible, and vibrant place for businesses, residents, and visitors alike.

Equally important is the BID's longstanding support for artists, creatives, and small businesses. Over the years, this support has helped sustain the unique cultural identity of the RiNo Art District and uplifted the very people who gave the district its character. From public art initiatives and community-driven programming to small business assistance and inclusive partnerships, the BID has shown a deep commitment to elevating creative voices and fostering innovation.

As we face continued economic uncertainty, including high vacancy rates in downtown Denver, the engagement of artists, creatives, and small businesses is more important than ever. These groups are essential to maintaining the energy and identity of our city. Their presence not only brings life and culture to our streets, but also plays a direct role in attracting visitors, investment, and development.

The BID should continue—and expand—its support for these vital contributors. By investing in local talent, creative initiatives, and small business programming, the BID can help build a more resilient and vibrant urban core.

The RiNo Art District has partnered with the BID on extensive community outreach during this renewal process, helping to ensure that stakeholders are informed and engaged. These efforts reflect our shared commitment to transparency and to shaping a BID that continues to reflect the values of the community it serves.

While the administrative model is changing, it is important that the BID stays true to its original mission and ordinance. With the RiNo Art District's help, the BID has served as a national model for shifting the paradigm of how BIDs can operate—demonstrating that these districts can go beyond basic services to actively support arts, culture, and community well-being. The BID should not become just another tax district focused solely on development. It must continue to be a steward of inclusive growth—one that supports social impact, protects affordable spaces for artists and entrepreneurs, and advances equity for all who live, work, and create here. This commitment is the key to our success and is what sets RiNo apart as a model for how creative districts can thrive while remaining rooted in community.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and continued support. We look forward to working together to keep the RiNo Art District a thriving, inclusive, and inspiring place for all.

Warm regards,
Tracy Weil

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TJ Weil', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chair & Co-Founder, RiNo Art District