

## MEMORANDUM – RiNo Business Improvement District

<b>TO:</b>	<b>Mayor Mike Johnston</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>Office of Boards &amp; Commissions</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>9/1/2025</b>
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	<b>Appointments for the RiNo Business Improvement District</b>
<b>PROCESS:</b>	<b>Mayor's Approval then City Council Confirmation</b>

**Staff Liaison:** Adrienne Villa

**Purpose of Commission:**

The RiNo Business Improvement District (BID) was established in 2015 to champion local artists, creatives and businesses to support a vibrant, engaged and inclusive RiNo Art District.

**Appointment Process:**

The Mayor appoints 9 members and City Council confirms appointments for a term of 3 years.

**Appointment Candidates**

**Term:** 9-01-2025 to 9-30-2028 or until a successor is duly appointed.

**Carla Mestas (she/her) (Female, Caucasian)**

*Founder and Executive Director, C.I.R.C.L.E. Organization*

Carla Mestas is the Founder & Executive Director of CIRCLE Organization. CIRCLE stands for Connecting Inclusive Responsive Communities Leading Education. CIRCLE Organization runs the youth leadership program which was started by Carla known as "Students Taking Action & Making Progress" ~ STAMP program in Denver and beyond.

Carla has worked in social justice, diversity, equity, inclusiveness and belonging for over 25 years (before it was referred to as DEIB) in numerous capacities as a consultant, public speaker, facilitator, trainer, writer and community leader.

Carla believes that we are all connected to one another and this earth. She holds true that every person regardless of their background (race, ethnicity, ability, gender/sexual orientation, socio economic) deserves to be seen, heard and included!

Carla is a well-known leader, consultant, coach/peer mentor who has worked extensively in diverse communities on the national, state and local levels. She believes in meeting individuals, groups, organizations and communities where they are through a head, heart and hands approach. This is influenced by her racial and ethnic background of Indigenous/Native American and Latina heritage through the teachings of the importance of a balance of mind, body, spirit and heart.

Carla is currently a 2023-2025 Livingston Fellow with Bonfils Stanton Foundation. She is also the recipient of the Community Rosa Parks Award. She is a graduate of The Denver Foundation's Executive Directors of Color Institute, a two-year leadership cohort. She was also part of the Visión Leadership Program through the Denver Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Of all her accomplishments, being the mother to three incredible children who continue to make a difference in this world, is her greatest achievement she is the most proud of.

**CURRENT BOARD**

Boards and Commissions &gt; RiNo Business Improvement District

**Board Members**

4 items • Sorted by Status • Filtered by Status • Updated a few seconds ago

	<input type="checkbox"/> Board Member: B... ▾	Current Te... ▾	Current Term ... ▾	Gender ▾	Race/Ethnic... ▾
1	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Diana Merkel</a>		6/20/2025	Female	Caucasian
2	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Jevon Taylor</a>	1	6/20/2027	Male	African American
3	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Obadiah Ariss</a>	1	6/20/2027	Male	Two or more races
4	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Adam Larkey</a>	1	6/20/2027	Male	Caucasian

**Demographics:** 3 male, 1 female, 2 Caucasian, 1 African American, 1 mixed race