Alameda CONNECTS

Alameda Corridor Business Improvement District

Community Meeting Notes
Wednesday, November 4, 2026

(These notes were generated by AI from a recording of the meeting and checked by a fallible human for accuracy. If you find an error, please notify us at acteam@alamedaconnects.org)

1) **Flutist Dennis Velasquez** welcomed everyone with beautiful Native American flute for Native American Heritage Month.

2) **Annual Meeting and Board Elections**
   - The meeting opened with the annual meeting and election of new Alameda Connects board members. President Jeanine Maxey explained that the purpose of the annual meeting was to convene for electing directors to fill seats being vacated due to term limits, as well as existing vacancies. The terms will start on January 2027.
   - The nominating committee presented five candidates for approval:
     - Lisa Adams, Valkyrie Gallery
     - Jennifer Brewer, Metro West Housing
     - Matt Logan, Foothills Credit Union
     - Michelle Medrano, Mile High Church
     - Ladawn Sperling, local Realtor with Coldwell Banker
   - A motion was made and seconded to approve the nominations, passing unanimously. Janine also recognized outgoing board members Kate Curtis and Doug Wells for their long-standing service.

3) **Community and Municipal Updates - City of Lakewood**
   Jeslin Shahrezaei, Lakewood Mayor Pro Tem and representative for Ward 1, provided several updates:
   - **Community Recycling:** Announced an upcoming joint community recycling event hosted by local Sustainable Neighborhood groups this Saturday.
   - **City Budget:** Reported that Lakewood's annual budget had been officially passed prior to the charter-mandated November 1st deadline despite tight fiscal constraints and broad financial uncertainty.
   - **Drone Delivery Services:** Shared that major retailers have approached Lakewood about commercial drone delivery. While the FAA regulates flight operations once drones are airborne, the city retains jurisdiction over local land use and licensing. Lakewood started a brief moratorium to allow staff to study front-range peer models, land use, and licensing fees.
   - **Emerging Technologies:** Highlighted study sessions on regional developments like data centers and 5G towers. City Council approved a 12-month moratorium via resolution to allow staff time to analyze local impacts and land-use regulations.
   - **Vacant Commercial Properties:** Addressed vacant commercial lots, noting that while Colfax Corridor has high vacancies, Alameda has fewer (highlighting the car wash celebration since last year). Under the vacant property ordinance established in 2023, owners must register with the city within 6 to 12 months and present a development plan or face fines. Implementation has experienced delays due to zoning workload and the difficulty of tracking out-of-state property owners via registered mail.
   - **Schedule:** City Council has one remaining public meeting left in the year before transitioning into study sessions.

4) **Public Safety Reports - Lakewood Police Department**

Agent Quinn Pratt-Cordova from the CAT (Community Action Team) team public safety updates:

- **Used Cooking Oil Theft:** Highlighted a nationwide trend hitting local Lakewood restaurants involving used cooking oil thefts. Cooking oil can be resold for approximately 70 cents on the dollar for conversion into diesel fuel.
- **Vehicle Theft & "Puffing":** Warned residents about seasonal vehicle thefts associated with leaving unattended vehicles running ("puffing") to warm up. Residents were recommended not to leave pets or valuables inside unattended running cars or to puff at all.
- **Diversion & Mental Health Teams:** The department's PREVAIL team (formerly LEAD) secured a BHA grant to expand intensive case management for juveniles to divert them from the traditional justice system. Additionally, the SPARK mental health co-response team hired a second police agent starting in January, bringing the co-response team back to full capacity.

5) **Public Safety Reports - West Metro Fire Rescue**

- Reminded residents about the dangers of deep-frying turkeys, stressing that fryers must be used strictly outdoors and never on wooden decks, inside garages, or near structures due to recurring seasonal structure fires.
- **Colorado Task Force One Deployment:** Reported that Colorado Task Force One (sponsored by West Metro as one of 29 national USAR teams) deployed a 17-person team (swift water rescue and overhead staff) to southwest Colorado to assist with state-level flood response, staging initially in Alamosa. Because it is a state-level deployment, backfill and personnel costs are fully reimbursed by the state.
- **Firefighter Recovery:** Reported encouraging news about firefighter Jared Leonard, who suffered a serious fall in July. He is progressing well at Craig Hospital with a potential discharge date as early as November 18. Colleagues recently took Jared, his wife, and his two children to a Colorado Avalanche outing.
- **Voter Support:** Expressed gratitude to community members and voters for supporting West Metro Fire funding initiatives the night before.

6) **Guest Speaker: Brian Corrigan – Building Colorado's Creative Future**

- Tom introduced guest speaker Brian Corrigan, noting they originally met at the Downtown Colorado Inc. conference in Manitou Springs. Brian presented Colorado's newly passed **Artist Corporation** (A-Corp) legislation (enacted June 2026, launching formally in July 2027), which makes Colorado the first state in the nation to set up this business structure.
- **Defining Creative Transformation**
  - **Starving vs. Thriving Artists:** The transformation requires exposure, recognition, community support, profitability, and an identity shift treating art as a business rather than a hobby.
  - **Starving vs. Thriving Creative Districts:** A starving district resembles a ghost town lacking funds or conversion. A thriving district features vibrancy, funding, community awareness, destination appeal, tax base support, and formal marketing/business plans.
- **Key Features of an Artist Corporation (A-Corp)**
  - **Access to Capital:** Unlike standard models, an Artist Corp can issue shares directly to community members to raise capital.
  - **Ownership Sharing:** Solves issues faced by traditional collectives (e.g., Meow Wolf's evolution from a 10-artist collective to a $60M Denver exhibit structured as a B Corp where original founders lost ongoing equity benefits). Artist Corps allow ongoing shared equity akin to employee ownership.

    - **Protection of Artistic Mission:** Reverses standard B Corp priorities: the artistic mission is legally primary, while shareholder profit is secondary.
    - **Shared Benefits:** Enables creative collectives to pool resources for insurance and health benefits.
- **Brian's 12-Year Entrepreneurial Journey (Why he's the cheerleader of this effort)**
    - Launched community building art projects 12 years ago (2014) in the Denver Theater District with $200,000 in seed funding as an 8-week street arcade across 3 downtown blocks, drawing over 40,000 players and coverage on NPR Morning Edition.
    - **Evolution to B Corp:** Brian initially lacked a post-event business plan but transitioned the project into a B Corp to license intellectual property across North America. Some projects:
        - **Boston:** Campus-wide interactive arcade with Northeastern University students.
        - **Coors Field:** Partnered with Arrow Electronics (Centennial HQ) for a 3-year installation reaching over 300,000 players.
        - **Meow Wolf:** Ongoing installation exceeding 1,000,000 plays per year.
        - **Steamboat Springs:** Farmer's market installation.
        - **Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies (Gatlinburg, TN):** Wall-mounted interactive screen approved by penguins, generating over 1,000,000 plays per year.
        - **16th Street Mall (Writer Square near Larimer):** Pinball-style interactive installation reaching 50,000 players in its first year.
- **Economic & Public Art Models:** Brian noted that standard LLCs cannot accumulate equity across millions of dollars in earned media value. The Artist Corp model enables community wealth-building, where 51% of shares must be held by artists.
- **Q&A & Discussion:**
    - **Art Leasing Concept:** An attendee proposed a scenario, and Brian confirmed this idea fits the Artist Corp collective model.
    - **Public Art Licensing (Eiffel Tower & Blue Bear Model):** Public art (like the Eiffel Tower or Denver's Blue Bear) can serve as an Artist Corp anchor by generating ongoing revenue through licensed miniatures, souvenirs, and t-shirts to fund community projects.
    - **Future of Work & AI:** Brian emphasized that as AI and automation change traditional employment, artists operating "in their fingerprint" can build long-term equity as independent contractors.
    - **Contact Information:** Brian Corrigan can be reached at Brian@BrianCorrigan.net. His talk coincides with Belmar's push toward becoming a "call yourself creative district" in 2027.

7) **Partner and Business Updates**
- **Belmar -** Marisa presented holiday events and tenant updates:
    - **Artisan Market:** Running Saturdays and Sundays throughout November.
    - **Holiday Tree Lighting:** Friday, November 20, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM (tree lighting ceremony around 6:00–6:05 PM) featuring Mayor Wendi Strom and Tom.
    - **Ice Rink & Shopping Stroll:** Rink reopens November 20 through January 31. The event introduces a Holiday Shopping Stroll with business discounts and giveaways.
    - **Belmar Yule:** Saturday, December 5, from 3:00 to 7:00 PM in a heated tent, featuring Old 121, T Street Roadhouse food/drinks, a live polka band, entertainers, and a holiday market.
    - **Holiday Lights & Wagon Rides:** Offered Fridays throughout December.
    - **Tenant Updates:** One Arcade opening mid-November; Waterworks Swim School (taking the former Wonder Gym space next to The Loft) targeting 2027; Texas de Brazil opening in the former Bar Louie space.

- **The Action Center -** Claire announced that the annual Holiday Gifts Program is live, supporting 1,000 registered families in early-to-mid December via a virtual gift card drive to provide parent autonomy. Virtual team drive flyers are available for local businesses.
- **Newly Formed Lakewood Chamber –** Erin Atchison shared that the developing Lakewood Chamber is hosting informal coffee meet-and-greets through November and December (including November 20th at Old 121) ahead of its official launch in January 2027.
- **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) -** Rich Poulter (Program Manager) detailed the 100% volunteer organization affiliated with Lakewood's Department of Emergency Management to educate the public on emergency response.
    - **Certification Curriculum:** 8 core units covering disaster preparedness (Go-Bags), fire safety and utility shutoffs (with live extinguisher practice), first aid, life-saving trauma care (tourniquets/airways), light search and rescue, disaster psychology, disaster organization, and terrorism awareness.
    - **Training Format:** Currently taught over three 8-hour Saturdays at Green Mountain Rec Center (next course in February 2027), with an online hybrid classroom model under development. Completers receive a certificate signed by Emergency Manager Jesse Miller and Mayor Wendi Strom.
    - **Community Work:** CERT provides ongoing monthly modules (wilderness first aid, pet first aid, ham radio, ropes/knots, reading blood test results) and first aid booths (e.g., handling choking, broken limbs, and minor pedestrian bumps at local events). Volunteers also act as victims in military convoy RPG scenarios and West Metro Cadet field days.
- **Community Announcements**
    - Homelessness Drive: 4th Annual Coat/Supply Drive accepting drop-offs at Chicago Deli on West Colfax.
    - Veterans Chili Cook-Off: 8th Annual Chili Cook-Off on Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at 121 Brewery's new location (Jewell & Kipling). $1 from every pint and $1 from every 6-pack of *Patriot Tradition Amber Lager* is donated to American Heroes in Action.
    - Financial Wellness Series: Secure Attachment Initiative announced a free 4-part financial series for early 2027 covering financial foundations, credit reports, saving priorities, and women's wealth/wisdom.
    - Sons of Norway Exhibit: A small craft exhibit will be at Sons of Norway.
    - Lakewood Mayor's Tree Lighting & Member Appreciation: Lakewood Mayor's Tree Lighting will feature cookies courtesy of Alameda Connects.
    - Alameda Connects will hold a Member Appreciation party at Torchy's Tacos in lieu of a December meeting.

Alameda Connects Announcements & Closing

- **Meeting Media:** Meeting recordings are converted via AI and published on the website and newsletter
- **No December Meeting:** This serves as the final formal meeting of the year. Come to the Member Appreciation Meeting in lieu of a Dec meeting.
- **January Meeting:** January 2027 meeting will feature a 2026 recap of Alameda Connects and BID accomplishments, complete with breakfast and coffee.
- **Grant Program:** The 2026 grant program is closed. The 2027 cycle reopens in March, offering up to $5,000 for corridor beautification, sustainability, and security.

Upcoming Community Calendar

- Saturday, November 7, 2026 - **Sustainable Neighborhoods Joint Yard Sign Recycling Event** Multi-neighborhood recycling drive specifically collecting political/yard signs.
- Sunday, November 8, 2026 - **8th Annual Chili Cook-Off for Veterans** Partnering with American Heroes in Action Group. $1 per pint & $1 per 6-pack of Patriot Tradition Amber Lager donated to veteran support. 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Olde 121 Brewery (Jewell Ave & Kipling St)
- Saturdays & Sundays (Nov 7–8, 14–15, 21–22, 28–29) - **Belmar Christmas Artisan Market** Holiday shopping market featuring local artisans and vendors.
- Mid-November 2026 - **One Up Arcade Grand Opening** Anticipated opening date
- Wednesday, November 18, 2026 - **Firefighter Jared Leonard Hospital Discharge** Targeted release date for West Metro firefighter Jared Leonard following recovery.
- Friday, November 20, 2026 - **Meet the Chamber Coffee Gatherings - Informal** meet-and-greets hosted by Erin Atchison about the developing Lakewood Chamber.
- Friday, November 20, 2026 - **Belmar Ice Rink Season Grand Reopening** Ice skating rink open daily through January 31, 2027.
- Friday, November 20, 2026 - **Belmar Annual Holiday Tree Lighting & Shopping Stroll** Joined by Mayor Wendi Strom and Alameda Connects leadership. Features ice skating performances, store giveaways, and holiday shopping discounts. 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM (Tree Lighting ~6:00 PM), Belmar Plaza
- Fridays throughout December (Starting Nov 27) - **Belmar Holiday Winter Lights & Wagon Rides** Evening holiday lights and horse-drawn wagon rides. Evenings, Belmar Plaza
- December — Valkyrie Gallery Holiday Gala featuring pianist Tom Amand.
- Early-to-Mid December 2026 - **The Action Center Virtual Gift Card Distribution** Virtual gift card distribution supporting ~1,000 registered local families for holiday gifts.
- Thursday, December 3, 2026 - **City of Lakewood Mayor's Tree Lighting & Cookie Distribution** Annual community tree lighting featuring expanded entertainment and cutout cookie distributions by Alameda Connects
- Saturday, December 5, 2026 - **Belmar Yule Event** Community event co-hosted with Alameda Connects featuring craft drinks from Olde 121, sips & bites from T Street Roadhouse, a live polka band, roving entertainers, and a holiday market. 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Wednesday, December 16, 2026 - **Alameda Connects Member Appreciation Party** Social gathering in lieu of the monthly December business meeting.
- December 31 — Lakewood Energy Benchmarking Deadline - First reporting deadline for covered buildings participating in Lakewood's Building Performance Program. Building owners must report their 2025 energy-use data or request an extension/exemption.
- Wednesday, January 6, 2027 - **Alameda Connects Monthly Meeting: 2026 Annual Recap** Comprehensive review of Alameda Connects & BID activities over the past 12 months. Free warm breakfast and coffee provided.
- January 2027 (Date TBD) - **Official Launch of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce** Formal launch of the new Lakewood Chamber.
- January 2027 (Date TBD) - **SPARK Mental Health Co-Response Agent Start Date** Second dedicated police agent joins the co-response team alongside mental health professionals.
- January 2027 (Date TBD) - **Alameda Connects New Board Member Terms Begin** Incoming board members start terms
- **January 2027** — Performance Now Theatre Company: “Cinderella”
- February — Daylight Collective at the Former Emory Elementary School- The Action Center's new community resource center is expected to have its public opening in February. *Exact opening date to be announced.*

- February 2027 - **Lakewood CERT Basic Training** Free 24-hour emergency preparedness and disaster response training course. Green Mountain Recreation Center
- Early 2027 (Dates TBD) - **Financial Wellness 4-Part Workshop Series** Free community educational series covering financial foundations, credit reports, saving priorities, and long-term financial wisdom. Secure Attachment Initiative
- March 2027 - **Alameda Connects 2027 Grant Program Opens** Applications open for local business grants up to $5,000 for beautification, sustainability, and security along the Alameda corridor.
- Spring / Mid-2027 - **Waterworks Swim School Opening** New swim school location opening in
- Belmar
- July 2027 - **Colorado Artist Corporation (A-Corp) Law Official State Launch** First-in-the-nation business entity option available to visual, performing, and musical artists.
- Late 2027 – **Call Yourself Creative District** Target date for designation as a “call yourself creative” district.