

***Collaborating, Innovating, Transforming:  
2023 Economic Development Conference for the EDA Denver Region  
Conference Agenda  
Updated: April 6, 2023***

**Monday, April 10, 2023**

**10:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

**Marco Polo Foyer**

**Conference Registration**

**11:30 – 4:30 p.m.**

**Ready, Set, Grow: Stepping into an RDO Leadership Role**

**Hopscotch / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

Economic Development Districts around the nation are experiencing unprecedented rates of turnover of executive directors. Often, new executive directors assume the position without any training or guidance from their predecessor. This hands-on workshop will provide focus on onboarding and orientation for those new to the job and those in line to become executive director in the near future. **Boxed lunches will be provided. Pre-registration is required although there is no additional fee to attend.**

- *Steve Etcher, Manager, MarksNelson, Overland Park, KS*

**Effective RLF Program Management**

**Red Rover / 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

Revolving Loan Funds (RLFs) are a valuable part of many EDDs work and can be a tremendous asset to their community. They also require specialized knowledge and can be difficult to manage without appropriate staffing. Learn from experts at the National Development Council and EDA Denver staff about the latest best practices and resources to take back home. EDA RLF Administrators and RLF Community of Practice Grantee, National Development Council, will present on a number of topics including CARES RLF Impact, Audit Requirements, programming of the RLF Community of Practice, and The RLF Act and Defederalization.” **Boxed lunches will be provided. Pre-registration is required although there is no additional fee to attend.**

- *Patrick Waggoner, Economic Development Specialist, US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, Denver, CO*
- *Janét Miller, Economic Development Specialist, US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, Denver, CO*
- *Chuck Depew, Senior Director, National Development Corporation, Seattle, WA*

**Strengthening Indigenous Communities**

**Duck Duck Goose / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

Indigenous communities across the EDA Denver region are creating new opportunities to build and enhance their economies. During this workshop, attendees will learn about the importance of accurate data as they seek federal funding, including various sources and uses of data. They will also learn about innovative models and strategies for building sustainable Native-owned businesses. **Boxed lunches will be provided. Pre-registration is required although there is no additional fee to attend.**

- *Kevin Klingbeil, Managing Director, Big Water Consulting, Seattle, WA*
- *Andrew Huff (Chippewa Cree), Senior Legal Advisor, Center for Indian Country Development, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Helena Branch, Helena, MT*
- *Gerald Sherman (Oglala Lakota), Founder, Mountain Plains Regional Native CDFI Coalition and Executive Vice President, Indigenous Impact, CO., Bearcreek, MT*
- *James Bible, S&K Business Services, Ronan, MT*
- *Bernadette Cuthair, Director of Planning and Development, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Towaoc, CO*
- *Michael LaPointe, Economic Development Specialist, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Mission, SD*
- *Moderator: Ernest Weston, Jr. (Oglala Lakota), Tribal Economic Development Representative, US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, Denver, CO*

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**3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

**Dodgeball Room / 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**University Center Gathering**

The existing University Centers will convene to share lessons learned about the customer discovery process, and to exchange information about the specific university center programs.

- *Marty Romitti, Senior Vice President for Research and Technical Assistance, Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness and University Economic Development Association Representative, Arlington, VA*
- *Sheila Martin, University Economic Development Association and Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness, Arlington, VA*
- *Jane Reimer, Community and Economic Development Planner, US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, Denver, CO*

**5:00 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Welcome Reception**

**Marco Polo Ballroom / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

Catch up with your peers from around the region over light snacks and beverages before heading out to dinner at one of Denver's many eateries.

**Tuesday, April 11, 2023**

**7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Conference Registration**

**Marco Polo Foyer**

**7:30 – 8:30 a.m.**

**Continental Breakfast**

**Marco Polo Ballroom / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

**8:45 – 10:15 a.m.**

**Opening Plenary:**

**Four Square Ballroom / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

**University Center Collaborations Build Regional Resilience**

The University Centers in the EDA Denver Region will share information about their programs, including examples of partnerships with EDA stakeholders across the region.

- *Welcome: Angela Belden Martinez, Regional Director, US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, Denver, CO*
- *Karl Unterschuetz, Outreach and Engagement Manager, University of Montana, Missoula, MT*
- *Ryan Anderson, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE*
- *Renee Shelton, Project Manager and Commercialization Specialist, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND*
- *Wallace Myer, Jr., Director of Entrepreneurship Programs, University of Kansas Center for Research, Lawrence, KS*
- *James Hoelscher, Senior Program Manager, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA*
- *Michael Carmona, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City, MO*
- *Rajesh Kavasseri, Co-Director of SDSU University Center, Brookings, SD*
- *Jeff Tucker, Executive Director, Advanced Manufacturing Institute, Manhattan, KS*
- *Brenda Martin, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, IA*
- *Melynda Thorpe, Executive Director of Community and Professional Development, Dixie State University/Southern Utah University, St. George, UT*

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- *Wyatt Anderson, Business Resources Center Outreach Manager, Utah Tech University, St. George, UT*
- *Moderator: Craig Buerstette, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional Affairs, US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, Washington, DC*

**10:15 – 10:30 a.m.**  
**Networking Break**

**10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Mobile Workshops**

**Smart Futures Lab**

**Meet in the Main Lobby**

The Smart Futures Lab, located at the University of Colorado Denver, is a business incubator and accelerator for underrepresented companies located in the Denver area. The Lab will offer an array of services and programs to clients including access to smart cities thought leaders, 5G network for research and development activities, and a supporting ecosystem of peers. ***Workshop is limited to 20 participants; pre-registration is required and there is an additional fee of \$15.***

**Brownfield Transformations in Denver**

**Meet in the Main Lobby**

Join the Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) team for a mobile workshop of brownfield sites in the Denver area. Led by Fonda Apostolopoulos, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Brownfields Program, this walking tour will explore downtown Denver and highlight several redevelopment projects that successfully utilized funding sources including brownfields. Stops will include Larimer Square, Union Station, Coors Field, McGregor Square, and the Dairy Block. ***Workshop is limited to 20 participants; pre-registration is required and there is an additional fee of \$20.***

**10:30 – 11:45 a.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions**

**Quick Immersion: OMB’s Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200)**

**Red Rover / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

Since 2014, federal grants and subgrants have been governed by a comprehensive federal policy document that has become known as the “Uniform Guidance. OMB required all federal grant making agencies to adopt it in its entirety. Because the Uniform Guidance contains most all the rules for administering, accounting for, and auditing of federal awards, it is critical that those on a grantee’s administrative staff take a “deep dive” into the document. But it is also important that staff who have programmatic responsibilities and even governing body members have awareness of the requirements in order to avoid mistakes that can result in cost disallowances and even harm the organization’s reputation. This session will provide a “quick immersion” into the key requirements that you may need to know or communicate to others.

- *Bob Lloyd, Robert M. Lloyd Consulting Services, Greenville, SC*
- *Moderator, Tina Engelbart, Deputy Director, Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District, Norfolk, NE*

**Bringing Accessible and Affordable Housing to Your Community**

**Hopscotch / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

Housing, particularly affordable housing, is a growing issue across the United States. Come to this session to learn from panelists working on diverse, impactful projects in Colorado and Utah. Their presentations will include ideas for innovative strategies, collaboration, and partnerships.

- *Michael Yerman, Senior Planner, My Rural Planner, Salida, CO*

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- *Vikki Ori, Housing Program Manager, Southeastern Utah EDD, Price, UT*
- *Gail Schwartz, President, Habitat for Humanity Roaring Fork Valley, CO*
- *Marcia White, Regional Economic Development Planner, Wasatch Front Regional Council, Salt Lake City, UT*
- *Moderator: Mike Norris, Executive Director, Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission, West Burlington, IA*

**EDA's Community of Practice Program:**

**Building Partnerships across Sectors**

**Duck Duck Goose / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

In 2022, EDA launched the Communities of Practice (CoP) to strengthen the nation's economic development infrastructure. Cohorts of EDA grantees are able to share their work through peer-to-peer learning, training, and technical assistance tailored for their specific needs and circumstances. Several of the nine CoPs will be represented at this conference and will be on hand with EDA staff to share their strategies and approaches for building their programs.

- *Brittany Sickler, Networks Program Manager, US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, Washington, DC*
- *Kevin Klingbeil, Managing Director, Big Water Consulting, Seattle, WA*
- *Chuck Depew, Senior Director, National Development Corporation, Seattle, WA*
- *Ciara Ristig, Senior Program Manager, NADO Research Foundation, Santa Barbara, CA*
- *Laurie Thompson, Deputy Executive Director, NADO Research Foundation, Washington, DC*

**The Role of Storytelling in Community and Economic Development**

**Dodgeball / 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

Sharing stories about the important work your organization is doing in your communities is critical to helping inform your various audiences about your programs and their impact. Learn from your peers about their successful approaches and strategies for sharing their successes.

- *Jolene Schalper, Senior Vice President Business Development, Great Falls Development Authority, Great Falls, MT*

**12:00 – 1:30 p.m.**

**Luncheon Plenary with EDA Leadership**

**Marco Polo Ballroom / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

- *Alejandra Castillo, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, Washington, DC*
- *Moderator: Angela Belden Martinez, Regional Director, US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, Denver, CO*

**1:45 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Mobile Workshops**

**Hotel Lobby**

**The Kitchen Network**

Learn about this unique kitchen incubator which empowers local food entrepreneurs from across the Denver metro area. The Kitchen Network provides commercial kitchens for its clients, as well as resources from industry experts. With two locations, Kitchen Network incubates about 100 specialty food businesses a year. **Workshop is limited to 20 participants; pre-registration is required and there is an additional fee of \$20.**

**Colorado Outdoor Recreation Economy**

Colorado's outdoor recreation industry accounts for \$9.6 billion in value-added (GDP) annually and 120,000

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direct jobs. Join us outdoors to learn from the [Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office\(OREC\)](#) on statewide efforts to advance the health of the outdoor economy, while exploring recreation development at downtown Denver's Confluence Park and entrepreneurial and workforce development at Denver's downtown Auraria campus. **Workshop is limited to 20 participants; pre-registration is required and there is an additional fee of \$15.**

**1:45 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions**

**Indirect Cost Rate: Meeting the Cost Recovery Challenge**

**Red Rover / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

The US Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) "Uniform Guidance" included efforts to clarify indirect cost recovery. Input from federal grantees about the burden of negotiating indirect cost rates compounded by some federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities restricting or denying the negotiated rates was a source of frustration among many grantees. Despite their positive efforts, some of those recovery problems continue to surface. This session will offer options that grantees have for assuring that their indirect costs are recognized and recovered.

- *Bob Lloyd, Robert M. Lloyd Consulting Services, Greenville, SC*

**Brownfields Redevelopment**

**Hopscotch / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

Brownfields can be sites of tremendous opportunity in our regions, if the correct funding sources, partners and strategies can be aligned. The Technical Assistance to Brownfields Team from Kansas State University will lead training and speakers will provide recent best practice examples from communities like yours. Join to learn about resources and programs to help transform brownfields in your community.

- *Maggie Belanger, Assistant Director and Technical Assistance to Brownfields Regional Manager, Kansas State University, KS*
- *Kate Lucas, AICP, Planner, Adapta and KSU TAB Partner, Denver, CO*
- *Christina Wilson, Acting Branch Manager, US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8, Denver, CO*
- *Scott Hobson, Acting Director of Planning and Community Development, City of Pueblo, CO*

**Get 'NERDE': A Data Deep Dive with Argonne National Laboratory**

**Duck Duck Goose / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

Argonne National Laboratory's National Economic Research and Resilience Center hosts both the National Economic Resilience Data Explorer (NERDE) and the Economic Development Capacity Index (EDCI), with funding support from the US EDA. NERDE consolidates data on economic distress, demographics, and industry clusters at the EDD and county level, while the EDCI uses data to assess elements that contribute to a county's overall economic development capacity. Bring along your laptop or tablet for this interactive, deep dive demonstration and learn how these data tools can be utilized to support your CEDS or other planning efforts.

- *Iain Hyde, Director, National Economic Research and Resilience Center, Argonne National Laboratory, Lemont, IL*
- *Carmie Burdi, Manager, Data and Analytics, National Economic Research and Resilience Center, Argonne National Laboratory, Lemont, IL*
- *Moderator: Bernadette Grafton, Research and National Technical Assistance (RNTA) Team Lead and University Center Program Coordinator, US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, Washington, DC*

**CEDS Best Practices and Partnerships**

**Dodgeball / 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

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Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDs) continue to be an opportunity to engage with regional partners and stakeholders and together chart an economic strategy for the region. Hear from EDA and EDDs around the EDA Denver region on the latest best practices and strategies for building strong coalitions.

- *Jane Reimer, EDA Denver, US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, Denver, CO*
- *Geri Gamber, Executive Director, SEUALG/SEUEDD, Price, UT*
- *Mystic Cournoyer, Economic Development Director / Grant Writer, Yankton Sioux Tribe, Wagner, SD*
- *Bernadette Cuthair, Director of Planning and Development, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Towaoc, CO*
- *Moderator: Ciara Ristig, Senior Program Manager, NADO Research Foundation, Santa Barbara, CA*

**3:00 – 3:15 p.m.  
Networking Break**

**3:15 – 4:30 p.m.  
Concurrent Sessions**

**Federal Audits: What are the Auditors Looking For?**

**Red Rover / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

Most federal grantees have considerable experience with audits performed under the Single Audit Act of 1984 (as amended). Based on the dollar level of federal funds expended during an organization's fiscal year, the single audit's objectives are to examine financial accuracy, design and operation of internal controls, and compliance with laws and regulations that could have a "direct and material" effect on federal grant claims. The federal guidance on the subject, contained in the "OMB Compliance Supplement" is directed to independent auditors using terminology and references that are unfamiliar to most non-accountants. This session will improve your audit readiness by "translating" those sources, identifying the compliance requirements that are likely to be tested in your single audit, and alerting you to how your auditor is likely to conduct that testing.

- *Bob Lloyd, Robert M. Lloyd Consulting Services, Greenville, SC*

**Broadband: The Next Connection**

**Hopscotch / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

As communities around the country work to capitalize on state and federal funding opportunities to expand broadband services in the most underserved locations, new challenges are emerging. In this session learn about digital equity and digital inclusion and how regional development organizations are ensuring that service expansions and implementations benefit those most in need.

- *Judy Petersen, Executive Director, Central Nebraska Economic Development District*
- *Carla Kimball, Central Nebraska Economic Development District*
- *Justin Fazzari, Ph.D., Manager, Data Analytics, US Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications Information Administration, Washington, DC*
- *Melanie Colletti, Digital Equity Manager, The Office of the Future of Work, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Denver, CO*
- *Moderator: Laura Lewis Marchino, Executive Director, Region 9 Economic Development District, Durango, CO*

**Federal Funding Opportunities in the Denver Region**

**Duck Duck Goose / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

Learn about potential funding opportunities that can benefit your communities from representatives from various federal agencies.

- *Angela Belden-Martinez, Angela Belden Martinez, Regional Director, US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, Denver, CO*

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- *Kelly Watkins, Chief of Staff, Office of the Regional Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency – Region 8, Denver, CO*
- *Dominique Jackson, Regional Administrator, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Region VIII, Denver, CO*
- *Lily Griego, Regional Director, US Department of Health and Human Services, Region VIII, Denver, CO*
- *Aikta Marcoulier, Regional Administrator, US Small Business Administration, Region VIII, Denver, CO*
- *Moderator: Jack Waldorf, Executive Director, Western Governors’ Association, Denver, CO*

**Wednesday, April 12, 2023**

**7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Conference Registration**

**Marco Polo Foyer**

**7:30 – 8:30 a.m.**

**Good Conversations Continental Breakfast**

**Marco Polo Ballroom / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

Back by popular demand! Enjoy breakfast as you discuss topics of interest to you with your peers from across the four-state region. Attendees will determine topics...please offer topic ideas on the white board located in the conference registration area.

**8:45 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions**

**On the EDGE: EDA’s New Platform for Grant Application Submission and Management Red Rover / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

EDA has launched a new platform for grant applications and management. Attend this session to learn about the platform from EDA staff.

- *Erika Ingram, Management and Program Analyst, US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Washington, DC*
- *Kristine Denzau, Management and Program Analyst, US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Washington, DC*

**Coal Brew Conversations: Economic Transition and Resilience**

**Hopscotch / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

Coal-reliant and coal-impacted communities and regions are creating roadmaps for economic diversification and taking innovative, locally-driven action to build thriving, resilient communities. Bring your morning coffee and join this interactive conversation to share and learn strategies, expertise and support resources, funding approaches, and doses of inspiration from across coal communities and beyond.

- *Suzanne Tegen, Assistant Director, Center for New Energy Economy, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO*
- *Stephen Allen, Liaison, South Lincoln Economic Development Corporation, Diamondville, WY*
- *Trish Thibodo, Deputy Director, Region 10 League for Economic Assistance and Planning, Montrose, CO*
- *Moderator: Erica Heller, Senior Director, Community Builders, Glenwood Springs, CO*

**Going Global: FDI and International Trade**

**Duck Duck Goose / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

As EDDs continue to expand their program offerings, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is an area with lots of opportunities for collaboration. The session will include a high-level overview of available resources, and ideas for developing an FDI and export strategy. State and regional best practices will also be discussed.

- *Suzette Nickle, Director, US Commercial Service Denver, US Department of Commerce, Denver, CO*

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- *Rachel Rose, Strategy and Analytics Manager, Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), Denver, CO*
- *Commissioner Stan Vanderwerf, El Paso County Commissioner, Colorado Springs, CO*
- *Stephanie Garnica, Director Global Business Development, Denver Economic Development and Opportunity, City and County of Denver, CO*
- *Moderator: Danielle Blakely, Economic Development Specialist, US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, Denver, CO*

**Build to Scale Builds Regional Economies**

**Dodgeball / 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

EDA launched the Build to Scale program in 2022 to build regional economies through two initiatives: the Venture Challenge and the Capital Challenge. Build to Scale invested \$47 million in 51 projects to boost innovation and tech-based development across the nation, including five in the EDA Denver region. Hear from Build to Scale winners about their projects, including partners, intended goals and impact, and strategies for sustainability.

- *Marc Nager, Partner, Colorado Venture Fund GP, LLC, Telluride, CO*
- *Quinn Robertson, Capital Program Manager, NXTUS, Wichita, KS*
- *Amber Dunn, Program Manager, NXTUS, Wichita, KS*
- *Gabe Angieri, Executive Director, Arch Grants, St. Louis, MO*
- *Moderator: Kirsten McGregor, Principal, Sagax Associates, Wilmington, DE*

**10:00 – 10:15 a.m.**

**Networking Break**

**10:15 – 11:30 a.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions**

**Resiliency Means Business! Resources to Assist Your Water Utilities with Preparedness**

**Red Rover / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

Tools from the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Environmental Finance Center Network, and others have been created and updated to assist community water utilities with developing resilience in the face of heightening threats from both natural hazards and malevolent acts like cyberattacks. COGs, EDDs, RPCs and other regional organizations are well-positioned to serve as technical assistance providers to support these small and rural utilities. During this session, you'll learn more about resiliency issues facing these systems and hear about readily available capacity building resources as part of the Environmental Finance Center Network's programs, supported under a cooperative agreement with US EPA.

- *Jack Kartez, PhD, Senior Advisor and Emeritus Director, New England Environmental Finance Center, Portland, ME*

**Creative Approaches to Main Street Programs and Placemaking**

**Hopscotch / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

Main Streets, downtowns, and other historic, commercial districts are the lifeblood of our communities. Revitalized, vibrant, and thriving Main Streets do not occur by happenstance and strategic planning, partnerships, and investments are ongoing across the nation. This session will highlight creative approaches across the state of North Dakota and encourage interactive peer discussion on Main Streets and placemaking strategies.

- *Tracey Miller, Lead Development Manager, North Dakota Department of Commerce*

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- *Melinda Padilla Lynch, Community Engagement Liaison, North Dakota Department of Commerce*
- *Emma Cook, Community Development Liaison, North Dakota Department of Commerce*

**EDA Projects: From Development to Award**

**Dodgeball / 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

The session is designed to provide conference participants with insights into what EDA staff are looking for when making funding decisions. Attendees will leave with ideas on how to make a submission as competitive as possible, and what makes a project strong enough for funding consideration.

- *Cindy Edwards, Area Director, US Economic Development Administration, Denver, CO*
- *Steve Castaner, Economic Development Representative, US Economic Development Administration, Denver, CO*

**11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Closing Plenary: State of the Region and Looking Forward**

**Four Square Ballroom / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

- *Angela Belden Martinez, Regional Director, US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, Denver, CO*