



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

The City of Wheat Ridge Announces 2019 Business Award Winners *Local businesses recognized for outstanding contributions to the community*

WHEAT RIDGE, Colo. Sept. 24, 2019 – The City of Wheat Ridge, Wheat Ridge Business Association (WRBA), and the Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce recognized outstanding businesses in the community announced at the 16th Annual Business Appreciation Awards Breakfast. Local leaders and members of the business community joined Wheat Ridge Mayor Bud Starker to honor the achievements of Wheat Ridge businesses.

The 2019 award recipients are:

- **Business of the Year** – Bardo Coffee House
- **Reinvestment Award** –
 - All Sacred and Ritual Cravt
 - Ziggi's Coffee
- **Cultural Commission Award** – Craft Box
- **City Council Partnership Award** –
 - Joyce Manwaring, *former Director of Parks & Rec*
 - The Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Committee
- **Mayor's Partnership Award** – Dan Brennan, *former Chief of Wheat Ridge Police*
- **WRBA Rising Star Award** – Ashley Holland, Localworks
- **WRBA Member of the Year** – Cheryl Blum Garcia, Legal Shield
- **Wheat Ridge Chamber Business of the Year** – Grabbies Media
- **Wheat Ridge Chamber Non-Profit** – Family Tree

Residents and local businesses nominated their choice for the *Business of the Year* and the *Reinvestment Award*. Nominations were reviewed and winners were selected by a team of Jefferson County business professionals for Business of the Year and City staff for Reinvestment Award. Other award winners were selected by the sponsoring organization for that award.

Business of the Year: Bardo Coffee House

This award recognizes a business that exemplifies the *Best in Business* and represents the values of the community.

Bardo was nominated by a few people in the Community who recognized the coffee house as the new key meeting place in Wheat Ridge. Bardo is a Colorado-born business and one of the 10 top coffee houses in the Denver area according to *Westward*. They are powered 100 percent by wind energy from Xcel lowering their carbon footprint. Bardo's uses local sources for the business that employs 15 people. Bardo contributes to local charities including Pennington and Stevens Elementary Schools,

and Wheat Ridge High School. They also support Toys for Tots, Food Bank of the Rockies, Inner City Health Clinic, Family Tree, and Community Table. *Other nominees included: Four Season's Farmer's Market, Pediatrics West, PetSmart, and Tazza di Caffee*

Reinvestment Award Winners: All Sacred and Ritual Cravt and Ziggi's Coffee

This award recognizes a business that has demonstrated one or more of the following: made a significant investment in its property, improved the overall appearance of the site, maintained property at the highest standards, or updated their building in a manner to make it more marketable.

All Sacred and Ritual Cravt purchased the building that previously housed Mod Mood on 44th Avenue just west of Wadsworth.

The owners of All Sacred spruced up the exterior and interior of the building and gave it new life. The new exterior color has contributed to the overall look of the retail corridor along 44th Avenue.

Ziggi's constructed a new building on Youngfield just south of 32nd Avenue. This site at 2900 Youngfield St. sat vacant for years and many small businesses have attempted to develop the site which was challenging due to its size and shape. The owners of the Ziggi's franchise worked diligently with City staff to make sure the site effectively managed traffic flow and customer service. Ziggi's opened earlier this year and offers another great coffee destination and drive thru for Wheat Ridge residents and visitors. *Other nominees included: Circle K Convenience Store, Hemp Hearts of Wheat Ridge, Raffaele's Hair Studio, and Mod Mood.*

Cultural Commission Award Winner: Craft Box

This award recognizes a business that has made an impact on the community through one or more of the following: promoting/encouraging culture and the arts, promoting awareness of our cultural activities, diversity, or heritage, supporting opportunities in art education for all ages or incorporating art into the architecture and design of their building. *Other nominees included: Ornamental Bead, and Swiss Flower and Gift Cottage*

City Council Partnership Award Winners: Joyce Manwaring, former Director of Wheat Ridge Parks & Recreation, and the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Committee

The City Council recognizes a company or individual for their overall contributions to the City. It incorporates criteria from all award categories as well as contributions in volunteerism, leadership, and community investment/involvement.

Wheat Ridge City Council unanimously selected two winners this year. The first was Joyce Manwaring who retired from the City as its long-standing Director of Parks and Recreation. The second winner was the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy (NRS) Committee. This committee worked almost a full year revisiting and rewriting the NRS Final Report which will be used by City Council to steer the future of Wheat Ridge.

Mayor's Partnership Award Winner: Dan Brennan, former Chief of Police

The Mayor recognizes a company or program for their overall contributions. The award incorporates criteria from all categories as well as contributions in volunteerism, leadership, and community investment.

The Mayor selected Brennan for his leadership abilities and his guidance of the Wheat Ridge Police Department for more than 14 years. Brennan retired in July of 2019.

WRBA Rising Star Award: Ashley Holland, Localworks

This award is given to the WRBA member who has dedicated the past year to improving the organization and the community.

WRBA Member of the Year: Cheryl Blum Garcia, Legal Shield

This award was given to the WRBA member of the year for her contribution to the organization and the community.

The Wheat Ridge Chamber Business of the Year Award: Grabbies Media

The Wheat Ridge Chamber Non-Profit of the Year Award: Family Tree

Detailed information about the award recipients and their companies as well as photographs are available on request. Contact Steve Art, economic development manager at 303.235.2806 or email sart@ci.wheatridge.co.us.

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