

LoDo In The Limelight  
By Kynton Chan

Over the last 20 years, the LoDo District Annual Meeting and Limelight Awards has been an evening dedicated to the individuals and businesses that make historic Lower Downtown Denver the unique entertainment and business district that it is today. The 20<sup>th</sup> annual awards, held on March 10 at the Seawell Grand Ballroom, delivered an incredible opportunity for over 200 LoDo members to “step out of the dark and into the limelight.”

Chief among those 300-plus members were this year’s four Limelight Award winners:

- Cares Award: Jim Theye, Kentwood City Properties
- Legacy Award: Chris Shears, Shears/Adkins Architects
- Spotlight Award: Samantha Martel, Downtown Denver News
- Service Award: Laurie Helmick, Luxe Salon

These individuals and their fellow nominees made significant contributions to the community over the past year through their work in community service, building development and preservation, marketing or service to the LoDo District organization.

They advocates for the residents of the Barth Hotel and works tirelessly to promote the LoDo Cares community service program.

Shears exemplifies the Legacy Award through his participation in the design of many new buildings in LoDo. In addition, he participated in the Neighborhood Plan Process, helped to craft design review guidelines and participated in numerous civic forums.

Martel serves the LoDo community through her publication, the Downtown Denver News, the only newspaper devoted to LoDo. She promotes and communicates the concerns of the neighborhood to a larger audience and drives new traffic to the community.

Helmick was the former president of the Board of Directors of LoDo District, Inc. and, most recently, chaired the Economic and Community Development Committee. Her previous service as president and continual involvement in the District helped elevate the organization to a new level.

Theye, Shears, Martel and Helmick were happy to share the spotlight, though. Master of Ceremonies Ashton Altieri, 9 News meteorologist, kept the ceremonies on schedule and humorous. Epicurean catering kept the guests well fed. And throughout the evening, Mistura Fina and the Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra provided the perfect soundtrack for light conversation, sipping cocktails and dancing.

In addition to being an evening to celebrate the efforts and dedication of the members of LoDo, the Limelight Awards also serve as one of the major fundraising events of the year for the LoDo District. And this year’s silent auction was up to the task. Auction items included a night of bowling for eight, a helicopter ride over Denver, a week at a Beaver Creek timeshare, wine and dinner at various LoDo restaurants.

Thanks to event sponsors, Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra, Mercury LDO Reprographics, Epicurean Culinary Group and Seawell Grand Ballroom, the 20<sup>th</sup> LoDo District Annual Meeting and Limelight Awards was truly a night dedicated to the individuals and businesses whose combined efforts help make LoDo a unique historic neighborhood and a destination for young and old.

To view photos of the event please visit us on [Facebook](#).