

Stellar Cast of Characters Honored With Limelight Award 2007 Annual Meeting Sets the Stage

by Rebecca Crosby

And the envelope please! Our very own winners were announced at the LoDo District's 2007 Annual meeting and dinner featuring Governor Bill Ritter. After much anticipation and the occasional cocktail, the 300 attendees applauded and were pleased to honor the following contributors to their LoDo neighborhood:

In the category of *Communications*, Ivar Zeile was honored for his hard work and support during the re-launch of the LoDo District's printed newsletter Old.New.Now. Ivar designed the new edition of the newsletter and continues to produce each edition with attention to consistency and quality of format with some subtle changes as needed to keep each issue fresh. "I am very pleased to receive the Limelight Award; I don't think anyone outside of the Communications Committee and maybe my wife know that I design and produce the newsletter. It's not something that I really promote on my own so it's very nice to know that it has value for and enthusiasm from the District."

The Downtown Denver Partnership was recognized in the category of *Economic and Community Development* for their efforts and partnership with the LoDo District in the development of the downtown retail and amenity map found at www.experiencedowntowndenver.com. If you haven't had a chance to check out this web site, you'll be amazed at all the invaluable information provided here. For example you will never again have to query, "Where do I park?" or "Where can I get my hair cut?" It's all here in a user-friendly format for all to use.

Denver City Councilwoman Elbra Wedgeworth of District 8, which includes the eastern edge of LoDo neighborhood, was recognized in the category of *Government Relations* for her contributions and her years of service to downtown and LoDo. "It is an honor to be recognized for my work, especially in the downtown and LoDo areas. To be public servant has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my life."

Joe Vostrejs, General Manager of the Larimer Square Management Group, and Margaret Ebeling, marketing director, and accepted the award in the category of *Marketing and Special Events* for reaching both local and national audiences with the wonderful events and marketing of the popular Larimer Square. Over the past couple of years Larimer Square's management has formed a much closer working relationship with the District, working together on marketing, zoning issues, liquor licenses and other matters of mutual interest. "We really appreciate the fine leadership at the District right now and are looking forward to continuing and deepening our work together."

For *Transportation*, RTD, the Regional Transportation District, and Cal Marsella, General Manager, were honored for their work to get the Southeast Light rail open on time and under budget. The SE Light rail provides a much needed and used connection

between LoDo and the SE Metro area. RTD has now completed four consecutive light rail lines on time and on budget, a record that is the envy of transit agencies worldwide.

And in *Urban Design* the LoDo District recognized Ron Straka for his years of service and work on behalf of LoDo issues, up to and including the highly successful spring 2006 lecture series. Ron helped to organize LoDo District's Urban Design Committee, a group of concerned urban design savvy volunteers that have become an active and positive force enhancing the public realm within the historic context of the district. "It is a very humbling and important award because it represents recognition by a diversity of people's interests and perspectives that make the "hood" what it is: a unique and great place to live and work and be a part of."

Finally, Dave Moore was awarded the coveted *Friend of LoDo* in a surprise announcement that made everyone who has ever come in contact with Dave happy. A much deserved and timely recognition for Dave who in his capacity as director of Coors Field Administration and Development, as well as a past president and current member of the board of directors of LoDo District, has been pitching the attributes of LoDo to the greater community for many years. Jim Theye, who followed Dave as Board President knows best the incredible benefits that Dave has brought to the District through his time, energy, business savvy, and wisdom. "Dave has given back to this community many times over, and has guided the organization through a resurgence as we work to maintain the delicate balance of mixed use in the neighborhood."

Nominations for the Limelight Awards come from the active committees working under the District organization, and the Limelight Award Winner is the person, place or project that best exemplifies the mission of the committees. If you want your name or organization to be in that envelope for 2008, get involved with LoDo District and call 303-628-5428. You'll be a winner in our book every year!