

From the Executive Director

Summer season is construction season at the Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority!

As we enter the summer season, Pueblo's redevelopment agency moves from planning and designing redevelopment projects to the capital improvement phase where shovels meet dirt, hammers meet nails, and construction jobs start to be filled across our City. This summer, we will begin construction on Phase II of the Lake Avenue Streetscape project. This \$1.3 million construction project will extend improvements further south along Lake Avenue past the intersection with Iowa Avenue. Two-way traffic along Lake Avenue will be maintained during the vast majority of the 135 day construction period. Intersection closure times will be minimized as much as feasible, and businesses and residents in the area will be advised well in advance. We will also coordinate project schedules and work times to best fit the needs of the business owners.

The Lake Avenue Streetscape project consists of the construction of streetscape improvements on Lake Avenue from Pueblo Boulevard to Lakeview, including roadway demolition and reconstruction, utilities installation (water main, storm sewer and sanitary sewer), landscaping and related items. The goal is to attract private sector development through enhancing the quality of the street environment, while at the same time increasing pedestrian safety, calming traffic, and improving storm water drainage along the roadway.

In addition to our streetscape project, the Authority is looking forward to completing a major Property Improvement Program project in the Mesa Junction neighborhood. The improvements being finalized to the front and rear entrances to 124 Midway Avenue include windows, sidewalk repairs, a rehabilitated staircase, mosaic tile work fired by a local artist, and landscaping improvements.

Residents walking, biking or driving along Union Avenue in Mesa Junction are sure to take note of the beautifully-designed rear entrance to the property. Our goal here is to show property owners in the Mesa Junction neighborhood the potential of their property, and to encourage residents to rehabilitate dilapidated and distressed properties in the area. Well-maintained properties benefit us all through increased property values and safer, cleaner neighborhoods. If you are inconvenienced this summer by one of our construction sites, we apologize! Growth is always a painful process, but it is also a necessary process for a healthy community. We at the Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority are confident you will be pleased with the results!

Yours, **John R. Batey, AICP-PURA Executive Director**

From the Board Chairman



There was exciting news coming out of Denver on May 18: Pueblo was awarded a \$14.8 million grant. The Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) chose Pueblo as one of two statewide applications that were approved for the grants. Legislation adopted in 2009 under the

Regional Tourism Act (RTA), allows projects that bring new visitors into the state, to keep the state sales tax that the community generates.

The Heritage of Heroes/Professional Bull Riders University, is a project that will be developed on the Historic Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo (HARP). The Pueblo Convention Center will be increased in size with an exhibit hall and adjacent facilities. The HARP will also be expanded to Santa Fe Avenue. A hotel, Gateway Center and outdoor events space will also be the first pieces of the project to be built. The City of Pueblo and Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority (PURA) building sites will be opened to private development that will complement the new RTA project.

It was a long process; the RTA application was funded by PURA starting right after the legislation was adopted in 2009. Officially, the City of Pueblo was the applicant; a RTA Authority will be formed to begin the work needed to bring the project to fruition. Locally, the RTA team consisted of Dean Dennis, Rod Slyhoff, Rich Werner, Chris Kaufman, Gary Trujillo, Jim Munch and John Batey all representatives of government and organizations promoting tourism and development.

Heritage of Heroes theme was chosen to honor the long standing tradition as Pueblo "The Home of Heroes". Tourism will be promoted by catering to veterans groups, club sport activities, Professional Bull Riding, and

HARP. Facilities will be designed to house all of the groups as well as developing outdoor venues that can be utilized by the citizens of Pueblo. Indeed we are all proud that the OEDIT saw the potential in the project and have given Pueblo a big thumbs up!

Gary Trujillo, PURA Board Chairman

Founders Plaza Art Dedication

The third of seven monuments honoring the founders of Pueblo was installed this month at the City of Pueblo's "Founders' Plaza," located on the grounds of the El Pueblo History Museum, 301 North Union Avenue, in beautiful downtown Pueblo. The City of Pueblo approved a resolution naming the history museum's outdoor plaza area as "Founders' Plaza" in May of last year. The memorial was dedicated at a formal ceremony, held in conjunction with the Professional Bull Riders and The Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce Wild Wild West Festival.



The Matthew Kinkead Memorial was commissioned by PURA as part of its “Arts in Public Spaces” initiative. The project was coordinated by PURA with the help of the City of Pueblo, Art and Soul Street Gallery, and the El Pueblo History Museum.

“We are excited to recognize another founder of Pueblo with this artwork,” said PURA Executive Director John R. Batey. “We are especially proud that this project not only helps beautify our downtown and generate visitors, but also celebrates Pueblo’s unique history.”

A founder of El Pueblo trading post, Mathew Kinkead was a product of frontier living, beginning with his early childhood in Kentucky and Missouri to his young adulthood in New Mexico. In 1841, he left New Mexico with his family to establish a unique ranch on the Arkansas River, six miles above the mouth of Fountain Creek near current day Pueblo. The plan was simple and dangerous, capture buffalo calves and sell them back East. In the following year, he along with several other men would establish El Pueblo near a popular fording point of the Arkansas River. Adventure continued to beckon him and a year later he moved on to another settlement, Hardscrabble, located thirty miles west of Pueblo. Kinkead ran a cattle ranch there through 1848, then once again moved west to Sacramento, California. There he became a wealthy man owning ships and haciendas, living out his life until his death in 1891.

The artist for the Matthew Kinkead art piece was John Wilbar. With a background in Architectural Design, Wilbar has been a self-employed artist, designer and sculptor for over 25 years. His sculptural designs reflect his background in art and architecture and are a balance between graceful lines and structural form. The Kinkead pieces, as well as Wilbar’s designs, are unique in regards that each piece is one continuous sculptural body and has a complete change of form through the sculpture. In addition to his sculptural design, Wilbar is co-founder of John Deaux art gallery on Union Avenue. Wilbar has also provided designs for exhibition furniture at the Bessemer Historical Museum and Southeastern Colorado Heritage Museum, in addition to painted murals and designed the furniture for the Buell Children’s Museum.


For more information about the Matthew Kinkead Memorial, contact El Pueblo History Museum Director Deborah Espinosa at 719-583-0453 or PURA Executive Director John Batey at 719-542-2577. For more information about artist John Wilbar, contact Peggy Willcox at 719-582-0682.

City Center Continues to Make Stride

Pueblo City Center Partnership’s (PCCP) goal has been to develop the organization through relationship building, networking, education, research, and developing and implementing initiatives to better and re-energize Pueblo’s urban core. Members from the PCCP and a PURA representative attended the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) RECon convention in May. Working towards a goal to enhance the partnership and Pueblo’s visibility within the industry; the attendance at this convention provided the opportunity for Pueblo’s vibrant community to establish contacts who will contribute to PCCP’s mission by intriguing new retail to our market resulting in the promotion of economic development.



ICSC RECon is the global convention for the shopping center industry and provides networking, deal making and educational opportunities for retail real estate professionals from around the world. With over 30,000 attendees and 1,000 exhibitors it is the largest industry convention, making it an unparalleled opportunity to do



a year's worth of business in days. The photo above highlights the PCCP presence in the Cities of the World exhibition at this year's event.

Founded in 1957, ICSC is the global trade association of the shopping center industry. Its 50,000 members in the U.S., Canada and more than 80 other countries include shopping center owners, developers, managers, marketing specialists, investors, lenders, retailers and other professionals as well as academics and public officials. As the global industry trade association, ICSC links with more than 25 national and regional shopping center councils throughout the world.