



DECEMBER 2024

Just the fax



Halloween Culture Crawl: A Real Treat

Following up on the success of the 1st Annual East Colfax Cultural District Community Field Day in June, the Cultural District held its first Culture Crawl - Halloween Edition!

Where the Field Day brought businesses and community members together in a shared space, the Culture Crawl invited people to frequent an array of businesses along East Colfax. Conceived by the Cultural District's Steering Committee, with The Fax's help and funding from Denver Economic Development & Opportunity's Neighborhood Equity Stabilization division, five local businesses hosted festive and fun community events and 13 businesses held a month-long pumpkin search culminating in the raffling off of gift cards for a lucky few pumpkin pickers! The events celebrated the spooky season, but also reflected the diversity within East Colfax, including a lunch where attendees learned about resources for kids and adults on the autism spectrum, and a chance for parents to enjoy a night-out while kids enjoyed a movie, obstacle course, and bouncy castle.

The images that will certainly stick with everyone are the amazing limited edition stickers local artist-in-residence Sam Hutch-Ouranos designed for each of the community events, melding the Halloween spirit and what makes each business so one-of-a-kind.

2025 promises to be another exciting year for the East Colfax Cultural District, starting off with the annual Lunar New Year event. The event will be co-hosted by Tiger Kim's Martial Arts Academy and Otaku Clan Headquarters coffee shop and held on February 8th at 7000 E. Colfax - we hope to see you there!

Looking to get involved? Learn more about upcoming events in the Cultural District? Visit colfaxcultural.com!



CULTURE CRAWL 2024 LIMITED EDITION STICKERS



Get To Know a Local Business:

Sarahi's Kitchen

8135 E Colfax Ave,
Denver, CO 80202



3 Questions for Owner Sarahi Martinez

When did you open?

We first opened for business in April of this year, 2024.

Describe the restaurant:

We are a family owned and operated Mexican restaurant, originally from the state of Guerrero, Mexico, we are bringing our traditional flavors and recipes. Every single dish we serve is made from scratch with the freshest ingredients to ensure top quality meals to every guest.

What's your favorite dish on the menu?

The one item in our menu that we are most proud of serving and at the moment top seller is our Tamales. Our masa is made with a very unique recipe that makes our tamales completely different to the rest, wrapped on banana leaves, and filled with a mix of protein and salsas. We are taking this traditional dish to a next level by offering all gluten free and lard free masa and introducing a vegetarian and a vegan option.



Residential Support: Growing Need, Growing Impact

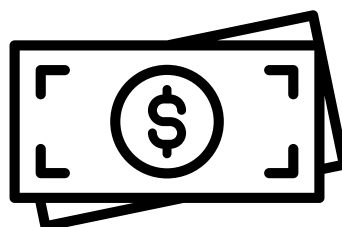
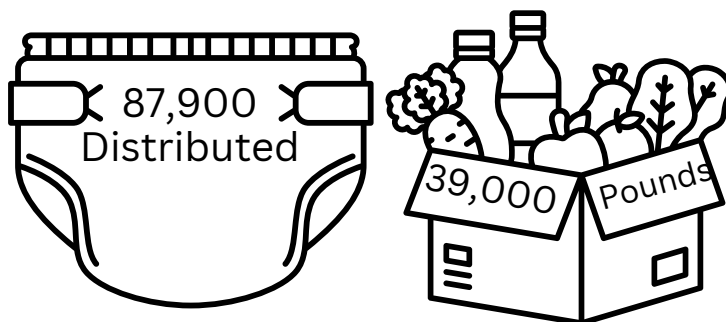
On August 1st, The Fax hosted its annual Back-to-School-Fair. On a sweltering day, families were eager to get the fair started, lining up hours in advance - highlighting not only the enthusiasm, but the need for more events and resources focusing on empowering school-age children and their families.

Over 860 residents attended and every one of the 600 school-supply-filled-backpacks were handed out. Attendees didn't just receive backpacks, there was also amazing food from Pikine Grill, nearly 500 pairs of sneakers distributed by Wholly Kicks, games and info sessions for kids and adults, as well as a constant line at the animal-balloon table. The event also served as a vital resource for families needing vaccinations ahead of the school year, with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Immunize Colorado administering 165 vaccines - staying over an hour past the end of the event to continue administering vaccines.

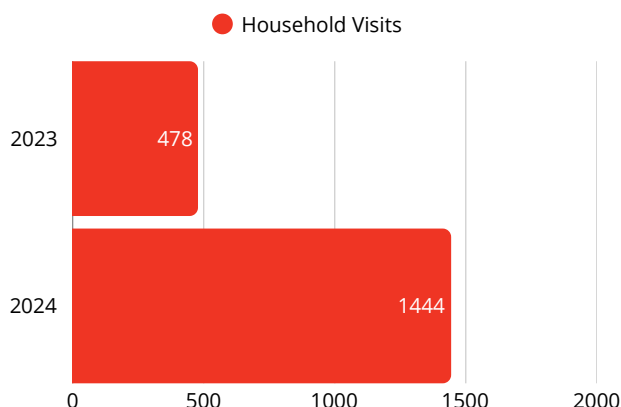
The Fair exemplified the growth experienced by The Fax's Residential Support Office (RSO) in 2024, which has established itself as a resource the community can count on.



RSO By The Numbers



**\$826 Avg.
Tax Return
\$693 Avg.
Aid Received**



Through November 2024, 1,444 households have visited The Fax's RSO, nearly tripling 2023's visits. Year-to-date growth stands at 330%. 1,758 children have benefitted from the diaper pantry and 749 residential clients received resource navigation services. This includes rental and eviction prevention assistance, employment resources, and immigration services. In addition, the RSO actively assists households in completing applications for government programs that may not have widespread notoriety in all communities and can be difficult to obtain given the bureaucratic nature of these applications. 115 households received this help, completing applications for programs such as SNAP, Medicaid, TRUA, EOC Bill Assistance, WIC, and LEAP. On average, those approved received \$693 in aid.

The RSO also provides financial education, with two main programs: tax clinics in partnership with Tax Help Colorado and financial health courses from The Financial Health Institute. In 2024, 133 East Colfax residents utilized the tax clinics and the total refunds came to \$110,000. The tax clinics will restart in February 2025 as tax season begins, while the financial health classes will continue three times per month at The Fax.

**Interested in the Tax
Clinic, Financial
Health Classes, or
another RSO
Program?**
Call:
(303) 284-4292
Text:
(720) 248-4414



Follow the
BRT's
Progress
Along
Colfax



Scan to view ongoing updates and activities

East Colfax Safety: Working for a Safer Neighborhood

In the 1st half of 2024, The Fax worked with the Denver Police Department (DPD) to survey the neighborhood and learn their top safety concerns, which were: Violent Crime, Drug Activities, and Non-Violent Crime (such as vandalism and prostitution). The survey was an important step, creating a point of reference to improve dialog between DPD and the people they serve. It also provided a baseline of expectations, a goal to hold DPD accountable to - which District 2's Commander Aragon has repeatedly stated is an accountability his team welcomes.

In addition to the safety survey, community groups, nonprofit organizations and government agencies met over the course of 2024 with the goal to reduce crime and improve safety. To achieve this goal The Fax and DPD hosted Quarterly Safety Meetings. These meetings are an opportunity for those invested in improving safety in East Colfax to meet directly with DPD and one another, to allow for broader awareness and better collaboration.

During the Q3 safety meeting, DPD brought in Dr. Herold, a Senior Advisor at the National Institute of Justice, and professor of Criminal Justice at UNLV. Dr. Herold was one of the authors of the Place Network Investigation (PNI) violence reduction strategy which The City of Denver is implementing to address areas of long-standing, repeat crime. Dr. Herold offered insights and has worked directly with Commander Aragon of District 2. Based upon her recommendations the City of Denver established a PNI board, bringing together government officials from across departments to increase the efficacy and expediency of proposed solutions to problem areas. Commander Aragon meets regularly with the City PNI Board and provides the East Colfax community regular updates through the quarterly safety meetings.

Crime in Denver | Summary of Reported Crime

Data is based on NIBRS reporting, which includes all victims of person crimes and all crimes within an incident. Multiple property offenses (i.e. two or more auto thefts) within the same incident will only count once.

Select either Year-to-Date, Last 28 Days, Last 180 Days, or Complete Past to see the respective crime summary.

Crime Category	2021	2022	2023	2024
Violent Crime	209	194	202	232
sexual-assault	19	15	12	16
robbery	45	43	42	50
murder	7	5	1	3
aggravated-assault	138	131	147	163
Property Crime	660	671	534	475
theft-from-motor-vehicle	190	184	127	88
larceny	112	100	101	102
burglary	112	105	107	98
auto-theft	239	279	197	187
arson	7	3	2	—
Other Crimes	755	689	821	1335
white-collar-crime	20	17	16	36
public-disorder	234	251	262	366
other-crimes-against-persons	79	49	81	139
drug-alcohol	92	67	106	236
all-other-crimes	330	305	356	558
Total	1624	1554	1557	2042

Crime Category	3-Yr Avg (21-23)	% Chg 2024 from 2023	% Chg 2024 from 3-Yr Avg
Violent Crime	202	14.85%	15.04%
sexual-assault	15	33.33%	4.35%
robbery	43	19.05%	15.38%
murder	4	200.00%	30.77%
aggravated-assault	139	10.88%	17.55%
Property Crime	622	-11.05%	-23.59%
theft-from-motor-vehicle	167	-30.71%	-47.91%
larceny	104	0.99%	-2.84%
burglary	108	-8.41%	-8.26%
auto-theft	238	5.08%	-21.54%
arson	4	100.00%	100.00%
Other Crimes	755	62.61%	76.82%
white-collar-crime	18	125.00%	103.77%
public-disorder	249	39.69%	46.99%
other-crimes-against-persons	70	71.60%	95.52%
drug-alcohol	88	122.64%	161.17%
Total	1578	31.15%	29.38%

Screenshot of the crime dashboard which can be found on the Colfax Safety Page.

Another tool to increase the communication between the community and DPD is The Fax's Colfax Safety page - thefaxdenver.com/colfax-safety. A single source for information about East Colfax safety efforts and DPD resources, this page helps hold DPD accountable to the neighborhood and the results of the safety survey. On the page you can find regular updates on DPD crime data for East Colfax and other DPD resources. It also provides a calendar for the quarterly safety meetings, minutes for prior meetings, and the ability for community members to send direct feedback on DPD's efforts.

2025 will see this work continue to help make East Colfax a safer community. Through increased accountability, community collaboration and data reporting, The Fax, DPD, nonprofit groups and community members are all working to make this vision a reality. Visit The Fax's website to learn more and get involved.

The East Colfax Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project began construction at the end of October. The first segment includes businesses on Colfax Avenue between Broadway and Williams Street in Denver. Initial activities are expected to take 4 - 6 weeks and involve occasional lane closures. At least one lane in each direction will remain open. Construction will typically take place 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. All work is weather-dependent and reduced speeds are advised.

Visit [Denvergov.org/ColfaxBRT](https://denvergov.org/ColfaxBRT) for more information about construction, business support resources and all things BRT.

We Back the Fax

Do you "Back the 'Fax'?" Visit a Colfax business, take a picture of yourself, then post it on social media with the hashtag #WeBacktheFax. You will automatically be entered in a drawing for a \$50 gift card to use at your favorite Colfax small business! Enter as many times as you'd like over the duration of construction. If you have a business on East Colfax Avenue, contact the business support team at colfaxbrtbizassist@gmail.com to receive your free branded doormat and window cling.

For more information,
check out:

[Denvergov.org/ColfaxBRT/](https://denvergov.org/ColfaxBRT/)
WeBacktheFax

the fax

The Fax Partnership
6740 E. Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80220



Want to learn more about what's next, or to get involved?

Website: thefaxdenver.com

Email: info@thefaxdenver.com

Social:  @faxpartnership
 @partnershipfax

Just THE FAX DECEMBER 2024

AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP IN EAST COLFAX

7 homes
available now
20+ more
coming soon



- ✦ Recently updated, brand new appliances
- ✦ 2-4 bedrooms
- ✦ Down payment assistance available
- ✦ Must income qualify

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Keep Up With East Colfax!

See what's going on at The Fax, The East Colfax Cultural District and East Colfax as a whole through our Events Pages.



The Fax



The Cultural District

Have a business or community event you'd like to share, fill out the form on the events page and we'll make sure to spread the word!