

DOWNTOWN COLORADO, INC IN THE GAME

GRAND JUNCTION APRIL 1-3, 2026

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE



WELCOME TO DCI'S 2026 IN THE GAME GRAND JUNCTION!
BE SURE TO CHECK OUR MOBILE FRIENDLY PAGE FOR THE COMPLETE ONLINE PROGRAM AND NOTIFICATIONS OF FUN LITTLE ADD-ONS DURING THE EVENT!



WEDNESDAY APRIL 1

8:00 AM REGISTRATION IS OPEN | GRAND JUNCTION CONVENTION CENTER

REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE AND MOVE TO THE SPRINGHILL SUITES LOBBY AFTER 1:00PM EACH DAY, PLEASE CALL 303.282.0625 TO REACH US DURING OTHER HOURS.

8:30 - 10:30 AM WEDNESDAY MORNING PLENARY | GRAND JUNCTION CONVENTION CENTER

- **WELCOME TO GRAND JUNCTION.**
- **SO GOES AGRICULTURE, SO GOES MAIN STREET.** EXPLORING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AGRICULTURE, RURAL ECONOMIES, AND DOWNTOWN VITALITY. *JANIE VAN WINKLE*
- **SACRED PLACES, SHARED FUTURES.** WHY CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT PLACES MATTER—AND HOW PROTECTING AND REDEVELOPING THEM STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES. *RICHARD REINHARD*
- **CULTIVATING PROSPERITY, NOT JUST BUILDING PROJECTS.** NOT ALL GROWTH IS GOOD GROWTH—AND NOT ALL COSTS SHOW UP ON DAY ONE. *KEVIN SHEPHERD*
- **DOWNTOWN + BROADBAND.** EXPLORE THE ROLE OF DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RESILIENT DOWNTOWNS. *BRANDY REITTER*

10:30 AM - 12:15 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS | STARTING AT THE GRAND JUNCTION CONVENTION CENTER

- **UNPACKING THE DYNAMICS OF COLORADO'S POPULATION, ECONOMY + DOWNTOWNS** (THE DATA SESSION) FEATURING SKYLER SCHUCK, COLORADO GOVERNOR'S BUDGET OFFICE + DAWN THILMANY, REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (REDI)
- **BUILT TO BELONG:** CREATING A CREATIVE DISTRICT THROUGH COLLECTIVE ART
- **SAVING THE STATION:** SPONSORED BY COLORADO HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
- **LIGHTS, CURTAIN, ACTION!** ASTERIA THEATRE AT CMU
- **FROM SOIL TO SIP: A CENTURY OF STEWARDSHIP AT TALBOTT FARMS** | 4 HR MOBILE TOUR + LUNCH (10:30 AM-2:15 PM)

12:30 - 2:00 PM DCI'S SIGNATURE DINE AROUND LUNCHESES | ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED

ENJOY LOCAL CUISINE AND ATMOSPHERE WHILE YOU ENGAGE IN AN INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON THE TOPIC OF YOUR CHOICE.

- **FRAMEWORK TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT** | BOHANNAN HUSTON
- **BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS THAT UNLOCK COMPLEX SITES** | AYRES ASSOCIATES
- **THE CAPITAL COCKTAIL:** FINANCING SMALL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS | CHFA + JIM HEID
- **POWERING LOCAL SPENDING -** EXPLORING COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAMS | OPEN REWARDS
- **DYNAMIC OWNERSHIP MODELS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY WEALTH** | CENTER FOR COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING
- **DATA TO DEAL:** USING NUMBERS TO MOVE TOUGH PROJECTS FORWARD | ECONOMIC + PLANNING SYSTEMS
- **FROM BLIGHT TO BRIGHT** | LUNCH + TOUR **COMBINED 12:30-4:15 PM** | KSU TAB

2:30 - 4:15 PM CONCURRENT TOURS + CLASSES | ALL TOURS REQUIRE PRE-REGISTRATION.

IN THE GAME'S WALKING TOURS GET YOU EXPLORING THE ELEMENTS THAT KEEP GRAND JUNCTION GREAT!

- **CREATIVE BY DESIGN:** PUBLIC ART, EVENTS, + GRAND JUNCTION'S CULTURAL COMMITMENT
- **DON'T SHUSH US!** MESA COUNTY LIBRARIES
- **FROM GRAIN TO GLASS PART 1:** INSIDE GRAND JUNCTION'S BREWING CULTURE
- **DOWNTOWN COCKTAIL CLASS**

5:00-8:30 PM | HAPPY HOUR + LIVE AUCTION | MESA THEATER

TIME TO GET YOUR GROOVE ON WITH A LIVE ACTION AND SOME FUN MUSIC AND LOCAL FLAVOR!

7:15 - 8:30 PM | COHORT DINNERS | DOWNTOWN GRAND JUNCTION | THREE CONCURRENT DINNERS FOR DIFFERENT PARTICIPANT GROUPS!

REGISTRATION REQUIRED | LOCATION ON NAME TAG!

- ANNUAL CO DISTRICT DINNER (FOR BIDS + DDAS), SPONSORED BY NORTHLAND PUBLIC FINANCE
- COLORADO URA DINNER (INVITE ONLY), SPONSORED BY BROWNSTEIN + PIONEER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
- COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: A DINNER FOR CONNECTION, HOSTED BY COMMUNITY HEART + SOUL

8:30 PM TIL YOU GO HOME. SAY WHAT? OF COURSE THERE IS KARAOKE! @ QUINCY'S BAR

CALL YOUR DCI TEAM @ 303.282.0625 WITH QUESTIONS

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THURSDAY, APRIL 2

8:00 AM REGISTRATION IS OPEN | GRAND JUNCTION CONVENTION CENTER CENTER
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8:30-10:30 AM | PLENARY

- **WELCOME TO GRAND JUNCTION**
- **ENGAGING YOUTH IN LEADERSHIP.** HOW COMMUNITIES CAN BUILD LEADERSHIP PATHWAYS AND AUTHENTICALLY ENGAGE YOUNG PEOPLE IN SHAPING DOWNTOWN FUTURES.
- **PROOF OF PROGRESS:** WHAT'S WORKING IN DOWNTOWNS (AND HOW TO DO MORE OF IT).

10:30 AM - 12:15 PM | TIME TO BREAK IT OUT | WORKSHOPS + TOURS | ALL TOURS REQUIRE PRE-REGISTRATION

- **PLUG + PLAY RETAIL:** HOW TO LAUNCH A DOWNTOWN POP-UP PROGRAM (AND WHEN NOT TO)" A WORKSHOP WITH MOLLY ALEXANDER
- **MAIN STREET AS A CITY PARK:** DESIGNING EXPERIENCE | CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION
- **TURNING TOWARD THE RIVER:** GRAND JUNCTION'S RIVERFRONT STORY (MOBILE) | DOWNTOWN GRAND JUNCTION PARTNERSHIP
- **VINES, VIEWS & VITALITY:** THE PALISADE DEVELOPMENT TOUR | LUNCH + TOUR | 10:30 AM-2:15 PM (MOBILE) EDCC

12:30 - 2:00 PM | DINE AROUND LUNCHES | GRAND JUNCTION EATERIES

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED | ALL LUNCHES ARE TENTATIVE AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
ENJOY LOCAL CUISINE AND ATMOSPHERE WHILE YOU ENGAGE IN AN INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON THE TOPIC OF YOUR CHOICE.

- **FROM MASTER PLAN TO FUNDING:** SECURING GRANTS AND DONOR SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS. DHM DESIGN
- **DOWNTOWN, LET'S MAKE IT OFFICIAL** | PUMA
- **LIGHTEN UP! LETTING RETAIL BREATHE TO PROMOTE DOWNTOWN VIBRANCY** | GROUNDED COLLECTIVE
- **CAPITAL THAT CIRCULATES:** REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS | COLORADO ENTERPRISE FUND
- **MAIN CHARACTER ENERGY: STORYLIVING + STORYTELLING THROUGH FILM** | FARM TO SPACESHIP
- **GETTIN' TIFFY WIT IT** | PIONEER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
- **ON THE ROUTE:** CONNECTING DOWNTOWNS + COLORADO BYWAYS | CDOT BYWAYS
- **REUSING BUILDINGS FOR THE CREATIVE ECONOMY** | 12:30-4:15 PM | CDPHE

2:30 - 4:15 PM | LOCAL TOURS | PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED | MEET AT STARTING POINT LISTED ON NAME BADGE

- **MAIN STREET REMIX:** INNOVATION, IDEAS + ICONIC GJ STORIES
- **SWEET STREETS:** CHOCOLATE, CRAFT + COLORADO FLAVOR
- **RETAIL ROOTS + RISING STARS:** A GRAND JUNCTION DOWNTOWN TOUR
- **FROM GRAIN TO GLASS PT 2:** INSIDE GRAND JUNCTION'S BREWING CULTURE

4:30 - 7:00 PM | BRING IT BACK TOGETHER | MESA THEATER | SHOW UP PROMPTLY

- **POWER OF STORY TELLING,** AN INTERVIEW OF AWARDS FINALISTS WITH COLORADO PUBLIC RADIO
- **DOWNTOWN EXCELLENCE AWARDS:** CELEBRATE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR COLORADO CHAMPIONS WITH THE DOWNTOWN COLORADO, INC. 2026 DOWNTOWN EXCELLENCE AWARDS.

DINNER + FUN | ON YOUR OWN - CHECK OUT THE HISTORIC LOWELL SCHOOL FOOD TRUCKS

8:30 PM - YOU DROP | AFTER PARTY | THIRSTY THURSDAY AT GOOD JUDY!

ENJOY A NIGHT ON THE TOWN WITH A LOT OF FUN!

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