

Spotlight on:

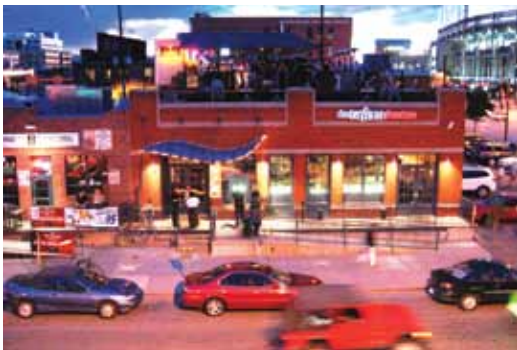
# Denver, Colorado

The Mile High City reaches new heights with its mix of nature, arts and culture. By Lisa Plummer

When you think of Denver, you probably envision snow-capped mountains, natural surroundings and outdoorsy folks with a passion for hiking and skiing. To be fair, it does have those things, but it also has a lively mix of dining, shopping, entertainment, arts and cultural attractions. The hip, young, pedestrian-friendly city also has one of the greenest convention centers in the nation and a growing reputation as a must-consider destination for meetings, and it will host the 2013 Collaborate Marketplace. Get to know a little more about this hot city.

## 1 MEET GREENER THAN GREEN

At the heart of downtown Denver is the two-level, environmentally friendly Colorado Convention Center, featuring 584,000 square feet of exhibit space, two ballrooms (one measuring 50,000 square feet; the other at 35,000), 63 meeting rooms and a 5,000-seat theater. Thanks to the center's ambitious sustainability program, the state-of-the-art facility received LEED Existing Building: Operation and Maintenance certification in May 2010, making it the largest building in Colorado and one of the largest convention centers in the U.S. to do so.



## 2 HANG OUT, LOHI STYLE

Denver is a city of neighborhoods with original boutiques, galleries, brew-pubs, bookstores, locally owned coffee houses, chef-owned restaurants and music clubs. But none has experienced more growth recently than the LoHi (Lower Highlands) District, located northwest of downtown. Pedal along the Cherry Creek bike path on a shiny red cycle rented through the city's B-Cycle program and check out the area's highlights along the way, including Confluence Park and the massive REI flagship store. As the sun sets, hang around and enjoy a bite at one of the district's eclectic eateries.



## 3 LATEST AND GREATEST

The newest addition to Denver's burgeoning Cultural Arts District is the Clyfford Still Museum, located adjacent to the Denver Art Museum. The bold, iconoclastic building was designed specifically to display the works of Still, considered one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. Opened in November of last year, the two-story, 28,500-sq.-ft. museum is filled with approximately 2,400 pieces by the abstract expressionist pioneer, the bulk of whose work has been hidden from public view for more than three decades. Created with events in mind, the museum can host receptions for 250 or sit-down dinners for 60 people.



## Who's Peeking at You?

From inside the Colorado Convention Center lobby, you can see a big, blue friendly bear looking in at you. The 40-foot-tall sculpture, "I See What You Mean," was created by local artist Lawrence Argent and has become one of the city's tourism icons. "To me, it's kind of like the bear needs the building, and the building needs the bear," Argent says. As for the idea behind the massive sculpture? "I thought about what it is like to be a resident here and the journey one takes down either corridor [14th Street and Speer Blvd.] when one notices there is a convention occurring. I'm always interested in what might be going on in there, the exchange of information, ideas and ideologies. But there's never really any indication from the outside what's going on inside." At least the big blue bear knows. Read more from Argent on his whimsical creation at [denver.org](http://denver.org) under Arts and Culture.



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