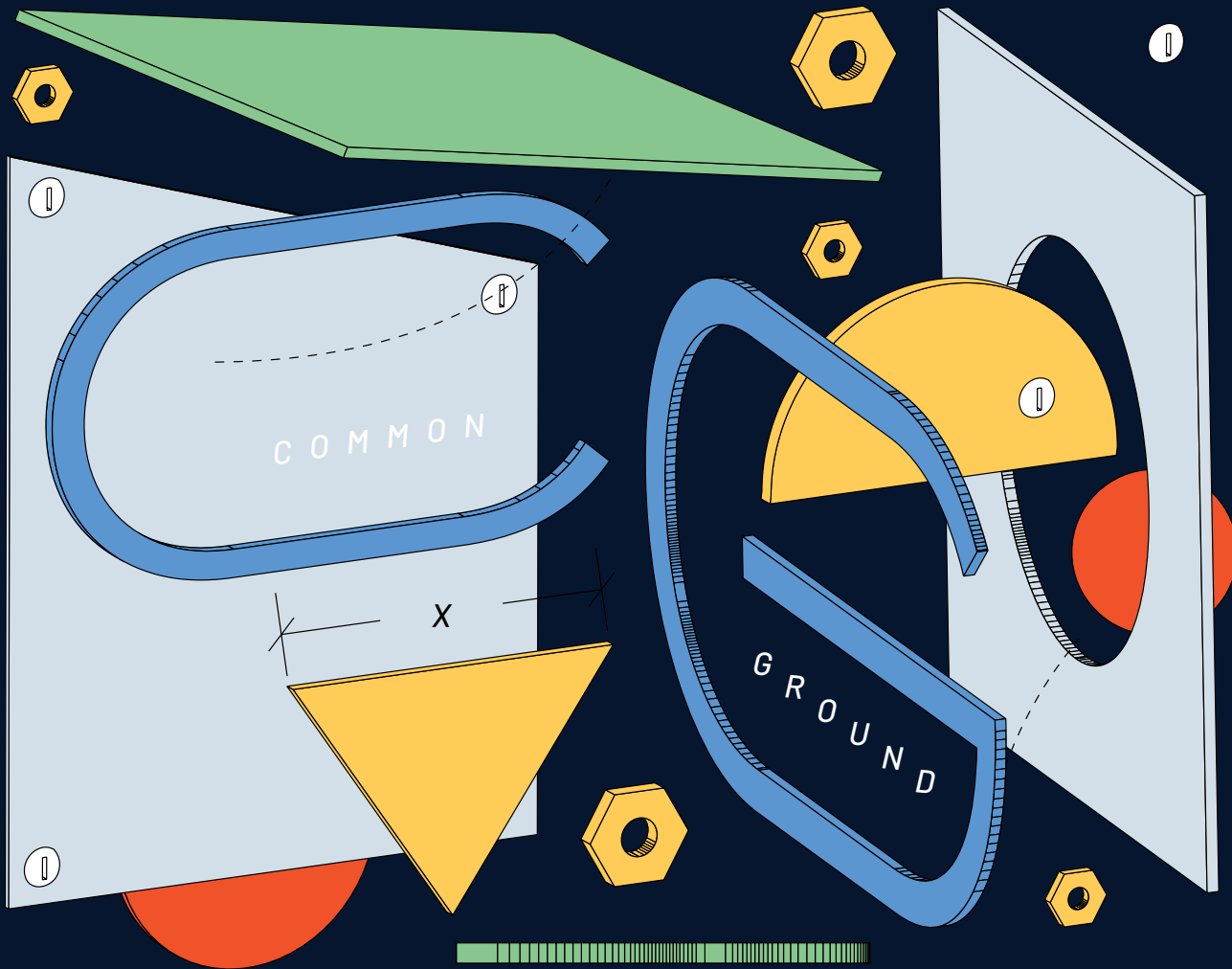


SPONSORSHIP PROPOSAL



COMMON GROUND

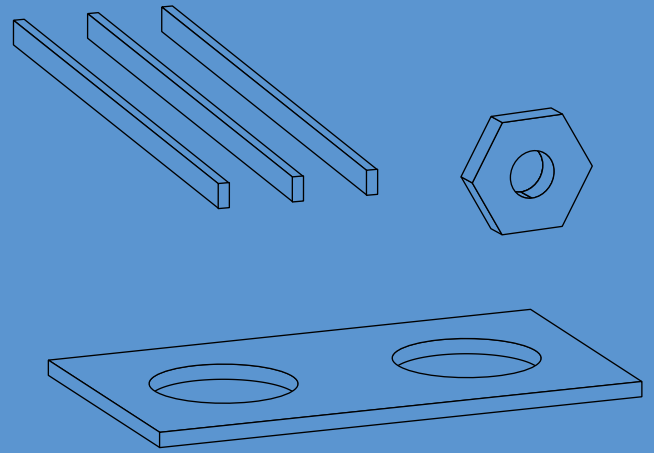
DENVER 2026

CELEBRATING DESIGN FOR CIVIC GOOD IN DENVER

ABOUT

COMMON GROUND

The Common Ground Initiative celebrates the power of design to shape community identity and cultural expression.



The initiative is being launched in 2026 with an inaugural community design project and event, in close collaboration with the Denver Architecture Foundation, architect Leyuan Li (CU Denver College of Architecture and Planning), and community leader and experiential designer Zach Kotel (Ashton Design, Lavender Hill Cultural District).

2026: Common Ground's First Community Design Project

SPRING AND SUMMER 2026: CO-DESIGNING AND BUILDING WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Student design teams will partner with five community organizations across Denver to co-design and build public installations—ranging from storytelling kiosks and gathering tables to performance pavilions. The design and fabrication of the pavilions will be conducted as part of a studio course at CU Denver College of Architecture and Planning. Each installation will emerge from a process rooted in community conversation and spatial storytelling, translating the values and narratives of Denver's communities into meaningful built form. Following the event, each installation will be relocated permanently to its partnering community organization, continuing to serve Denver's neighborhoods long-term.

SEPTEMBER 24-27, 2026: UNVEILING THE PUBLIC INSTALLATIONS AT DOORS OPEN DENVER

The installations will be unveiled to the public, community leaders, and Denver design network at Doors Open Denver, a beloved annual event hosted by the Denver Architecture Foundation. Highlights include:

- **Public display of the five community installations at the Denver Center of Performing Arts** for free, public viewing
- **Celebratory kick-off reception** building connections across community leaders, design community, and civic leaders
- **One-time Common Ground 2026 Publication** that showcases reflections from community and design voices on the topic of the role of design in cultural expression and preservation for Denver
- **Common Ground Panel Features** as part of the full Doors Open Denver programme

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The five community organizations, selected through a juried application process, that will be featured in Common Ground's inaugural project are:

COLORADO NEPALESE COMMUNITY

The Colorado Nepalese Community uplifts Nepali heritage throughout multiple neighborhoods of Denver and the metro area. Their Common Ground installation will be inspired by one of Nepal's most culturally significant architectural traditions - the falcha. Historically a small pavilion used as a transit resting place for travelers between fields, the falcha will be imagined for the Nepalese diaspora in the city.

COLORADO IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COALITION

CIRC represents the 543,000 immigrant residents of Colorado as a statewide, 80+ membership-based organization. Throughout 2026, CIRC plans to collect first-person immigrant narratives across the state, and their Common Ground installation will explore a way to foster broader memorable public interaction with the diversity of cultures present in Colorado.

LAVENDER HILL CULTURAL DISTRICT

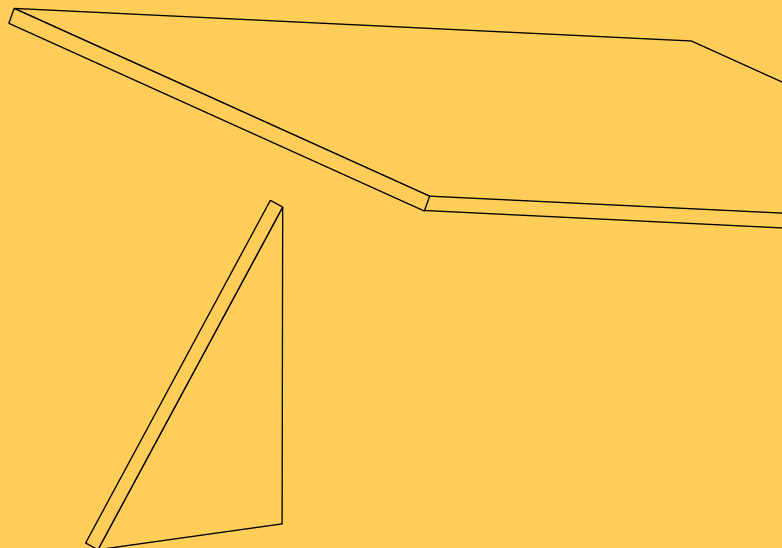
Lavender Hill's mission is to celebrate Denver's queer community by honoring the contributions of LGBTQIA+ residents and serving as a resource of contemporary queer activity anchored in East Denver. Through Common Ground, they will explore the role of design in placemaking and the creative contributions of the queer community.

GREATER DENVER CARES MENTORING MOVEMENT

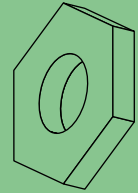
Greater Denver CARES is committed to enhancing the mental health and literacy of economically disadvantaged and BIPOC youth in Sun Valley, Montbello, Green Valley Ranch and East Colfax neighborhoods. Their Common Ground installation will focus on inspiring marginalized young boys to connect with their imaginations and stories through literature.

EMPOWER MEDIA EXCHANGE

EMX is dedicated to preserving and celebrating local histories by empowering marginalized communities to shape Denver's local media ecosystem. Their Common Ground installation will support EMX's vision of storytelling as a tool for cultural preservation and public activation.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Total Fundraising Goal: \$50,000

As a part of the deep partnership with each community partner, the five participating organizations are also committed to a financial contribution.

\$20,000 - Title / Presenting Sponsor

- Exclusive **“Presented by [Your Name]”** recognition on all print and digital materials, signage, and press mentions
- **Premium logo placement** on website, printed publication, event signage, and digital marketing materials
- **Opening remarks** opportunity at the celebratory unveiling event
- Invitation to **participate in a panel** as part of the Doors Open Denver programme
- Invitation to **participate in the design process** as a guest critic during student reviews
- **Feature story** and interview in the 2026 Common Ground publication
- **Primary tabling** opportunity at Doors Open Denver
- **Social media feature** on partner digital accounts (Denver Mayor’s Office, Denver Architecture Foundation, CU Denver)

\$5,000 - Major Sponsor

- **Naming recognition** on one installation of your choice: **“[Title of Installation], sponsored by [Your Name]”**
(e.g., *“Gathering Pavilion, by the Denver Design Institute”*)
- **Logo placement** on website, printed materials, and event signage
- Opportunity to participate as part of the Doors Open Denver programme
- Invitation to **participate in the design process** as a guest critic during student reviews
- **Tabling space** available at Doors Open Denver
- **Full-spread contribution** to the 2026 Common Ground publication, to feature your thinking on design and showcase company values

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



\$2,000 – Supporting Sponsor

- **Name recognition** on website, printed materials, and event signage
 - **Tabling space** available at Doors Open Denver
 - **Full-page contribution** to the 2026 Common Ground publication, to feature your thinking on design and showcase company values
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\$500 or Below – Friend

- **Name recognition** on website and primary print materials
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In-Kind Donation Opportunities

- **Event Refreshments / Catering:** Snacks, drinks, coffee for workshops and gatherings
- **Goody Bags & Donor Gifts:** Branded tote bags, festival publications, or limited-edition merchandise
- **Material Donations:** Tools, construction supplies, or installation materials for the pavilions or for signage/print materials for the festival programming
- **Creative Services:** Photography, videography, social media toolkit, event setup, live art (music, murals, etc.)
- **Volunteer Hours:** Skilled or general volunteer support for installations, workshops, and festival operations

Benefits:

- Name recognition in festival materials, signage, and publications
- Professional photography/video documentation
- Community engagement and networking

WHY SPONSOR COMMON GROUND?

Champion Equity in Design

Your sponsorship supports student designers and community partners in shaping inclusive, meaningful public spaces.

Invest in Lasting Community Impact

Each installation continues to serve its partner organization and neighborhood long after the festival ends.

Engage and Amplify Your Brand

Be recognized as a civic partner driving equity and creativity in Denver's built environment.

Celebrate Design as Civic Good

Join a collaborative network of leaders advancing design that belongs to everyone, and using design to create a city where everyone belongs.

Deepen Denver's Design Culture

Be a part of cultivating and deepening Denver's design culture and perspective.

For partnership inquiries, please contact:

Elaine Minjy Limmer, Associate Outreach Director, Office of Mayor Mike Johnston
elaine.limmer@denvergov.org