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“Civic Center EATS” KICKS OFF FIRST WEEK OF MAY

*Downtown Denver’s Food Truck Phenomenon Returns with Delicious Variety & New Additions:
First Year for Beer & Wine, Retail Trucks and Environmentally-Responsible Waste Program*

DENVER – Metro Denver’s largest gathering of gourmet food trucks returns to downtown Denver’s historic Civic Center Park the first week of May with nearly 70 trucks spanning 18 cuisine categories – 21 vendors are new to the event. A showcase of Denver’s culinary and entrepreneurial diversity, the annual **Civic Center EATS** launches **Tuesday, April 30th through Thursday, May 2nd, continuing weekly through early October**. Proceeds help support Civic Center Park revitalization efforts by the nonprofit **Civic Center Conservancy**, which welcomes back **Westword as the 2019 Presenting Sponsor of Civic Center EATS**.

“It’s the Civic Center Conservancy’s priority to continue bringing the variety and quality of food that people have come to expect from Civic Center EATS,” said Scott Robson, Civic Center Conservancy Executive Director. “With the Denver food truck scene as competitive as ever, we’re able to provide that variety with long-time favorites and plenty of new options. As well, we’re excited to give EATS guests an enhanced event experience with **three new additions this year**: a Thursday beer and wine garden; a daily selection of retail trucks; and a 3-stream waste program that is a testament to the Conservancy’s commitment to hosting environmentally responsible events in Civic Center Park.”

On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. from April 30th through October 10th (excluding July 2nd, 3rd, & 4th; August 7th, 29th, & 30th; September 3rd & 12th), Civic Center EATS presented by Westword provides an opportunity for downtown employees, residents and visitors to experience historic Civic Center’s architectural and horticultural beauty, savor a delicious, local outdoor lunch, and connect with the community. In addition, guests can now enjoy craft local beverages from the first-ever Thursday beer and wine garden, and shop for fashion, jewelry, take-home food items and more from daily retail trucks.

“Civic Center Eats has become a tasty tradition in the heart of the city,” said Tracy Kontrellos, Westword Associate Publisher. “Westword is excited to present the event again in 2019; our partnership with the Civic Center Conservancy enables us to contribute to an organization dedicated to enhancing and activating Denver’s Civic Center Park.”

As a part of that dedication, the Conservancy is reducing the amount of waste generated at EATS each day by working with food truck owners to provide only compostable materials to customers and providing a new 3-stream waste program featuring staffed stations for trash, compost and recycling – staffers will ensure patrons correctly dispose of their items into the proper bins. “This is carryover of a program we piloted last fall that significantly reduced the volume of trash generated by patrons and food trucks” said Robson. “We feel that implementing environmentally responsible practices at EATS is not just the responsible thing to do but has the potential to positively influence others given the size and visibility of the EATS program. These changes do increase our operational costs, but thankfully through partnerships, grant funding, a green fee included in every transaction and a food truck community committed to doing their part, we’re progressing towards making EATS a Zero-waste event.”

As always, Civic Center EATS will feature live, local music each day. Shaded seating is provided. Event information – **including the food truck lineup and live music schedule** – is available at www.CivicCenterConservancy.org. Follow @CivicCenterEATS on Facebook for the latest event updates: <https://www.facebook.com/CivicCenterEATS/>.

CIVIC CENTER EATS is produced by the Civic Center Conservancy with support from our community sponsors: **Westword & Denver Parks and Recreation**.



CIVIC CENTER CONSERVANCY

Formed in 2004, the Civic Center Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the City and County of Denver restore, enhance and activate Civic Center Park. Through programs such as Civic Center EATS, Independence Eve, Civic Center MOVES and Art in the Park; advocacy around design, infrastructure and policy issues; and fundraising for capital improvements, activities and initiatives that support and revitalize the park, the Civic Center Conservancy aims to elevate and sustain Civic Center Park as Denver's vibrant, iconic community and cultural hub. For more information, please visit www.civiccenterconservancy.org. Follow @DenversCivicCenterPark, @CivicCenterEATS, @CivicCenterMOVES and @CivicCenterConservancy on Facebook, @CivicCenterPark on Twitter and @CivicCenterDenver on Instagram.

Westword

WESTWORD

Westword was born back in 1977, when Denver was booming. Thousands of baby boomers were fleeing the coasts, lured to Colorado by the climate, the scenery, and the promise of endlessly flowing Coors. But with the deluge came a dilemma: so many young, active people -- and so little that told them what was happening in their increasingly dynamic city. That's where Westword came in. Today, Denver is again booming, welcoming another generation of young adults lured by the climate, the scenery, the country's highest concentration of microbreweries, and, yes, the promise of legal marijuana. More than 1.6 million monthly active users go to westword.com to find stories on everything from political scandals to the hottest new bands, with gutsy reporting, stylish writing, and staffers who've won everything from the Society of Professional Journalists' Sigma Delta Chi feature-writing award to the Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism.

Westword also gives back to the city with live events such as Artopia, our annual celebration of the arts, and the Westword Music Showcase, which every summer brings national headliners and scores of Denver's best local bands to a dozen venues in the Golden Triangle. In August, we highlight Denver's favorite food at Tacolandia; in September, we broaden the menu to shine the spotlight on Denver's entire dining scene at Feast. Four decades after its founding, Westword remains the voice of Denver for faithful readers who appreciate hard-hitting journalism. And better beer.