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RiNo BID Launches RiNo Sessions Grant Program to Bring Live Music to Local Businesses

Pilot Program Grants Will Support Monthly Performances and Local Musicians from October Through March

DENVER — (Sept. 16, 2026) — The RiNo Art District Business Improvement District (RiNo BID) today opened applications for RiNo Sessions, a new pilot live music grant program that will help businesses host live music while creating paid opportunities for local artists and giving people another reason to explore RiNo.

“RiNo Sessions is a direct investment in the businesses and creative community that make this district distinctive,” said Terry Madeksza, Executive Director of the RiNo Business Improvement District. “By helping businesses bring live music into their spaces, we can create more opportunities for local artists, encourage people to experience different businesses in our area and build a recurring night that benefits the district as a whole.”

Running October 2026 through March 2027, RiNo Sessions will bring performances to participating businesses on the third Thursday of each month, beginning Oct. 15. The six-month pilot program is designed to support RiNo’s creative economy while giving residents and visitors another reason to explore the district’s restaurants, shops, galleries and other gathering places. If the pilot proves successful and additional funding is secured, the BID may expand RiNo Sessions into a year-round program.

Participating businesses do not need to be traditional music venues, allowing shops, galleries, restaurants, hotels and other businesses to use music in ways that complement their spaces and introduce new audiences to what they offer.

Eligible businesses can apply for grants at three levels based on the type of programming they plan to host:

- $300 for solo programming, such as DJs, acoustic guitarists and singer-songwriters.
- $600 for small group programming, such as acoustic duos, jazz trios and small string ensembles.
- $900 for large group programming, such as full bands, brass bands and multi-act showcases.

RiNo Sessions advances several of the BID's core priorities, including supporting local businesses, increasing district foot traffic and economic activity, and reinforcing RiNo's identity as a center for art, music and creative expression. The program is funded by the BID, meaning dollars contributed by RiNo property owners are being reinvested into programming designed to benefit businesses throughout the district.

The program also builds on the BID's investment in bringing the Underground Music Showcase to RiNo in July 2026. While UMS created a major summer moment for the district, RiNo Sessions will extend that momentum by supporting smaller, business-led music experiences throughout the fall and winter.

Funding will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, and applications will remain open until funds are exhausted. Programming details and participating businesses will be announced ahead of each RiNo Sessions date on the RiNo BID website and through the RiNo BID's social media channels.

Businesses can learn more about specific terms and requirements of the grant program and apply at INSERT URL. For program questions, contact Taylor Crossen at Taylor@rinobid.com.

About the RiNo Business Improvement District
Established in 2015, the RiNo Business Improvement District (BID) works to support a vibrant, inclusive and economically strong River North community by championing local artists, creatives and businesses. Funded by commercial property owners within the district, the RiNo BID invests in programs and services prioritized by the community to strengthen the creative economy, enhance the public realm and support the long-term vitality of the district. For more information, please visit: www.rinobid.com

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