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Culture and Events at Belmar

Every great downtown has a significant cultural component and Belmar is no exception. As Lakewood's downtown continues to grow, so will its cultural amenities. Most of the cultural programs are presented by The Lab at Belmar, a non-profit institution dedicated to developing, presenting and disseminating creative research in contemporary art and thought.

Cultural programs include:

Urban Anatomy

Urban Anatomy is a unique public art project, where small works of art, fragments of poetry, and other creative vignettes are spread throughout Belmar. It is free and open to the public.

- Situated alongside such elements as sidewalk joints, manhole covers, catch basins and grates, the pieces are designed to make previously overlooked details of the urban environment visible to pedestrians
- Initial contributors to this project include internationally recognized writers and artists.
 - Former US Poet Laureate, Billy Collins.
 - Argentine-born artist Liliana Porter, whose works can be found in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Museum of Modern Art in New York.
 - Belgian-born artist Francis Alÿs, a leading contemporary artist whose work has been shown at such prestigious international venues as the Venice Biennale and the Picasso Museum.
 - Kim Dickey, a professor of ceramics at the University of Colorado, Boulder, whose work explores the idea of utopia.
 - The Center for Land Use Interpretation, a unique, Los Angeles-based organization that raises awareness about the human-created landscape through artistic and educational program.

Mixed Taste

- Innovative lecture series presented once per week June through August. Mixed Taste exemplifies The Lab's approach of bringing together thought and ideas that typically exist in separate fields. Each week two unrelated topics, such as T.S. Eliot and Fresh Meat Sausage or Andy Warhol and Artificial Lighting, are presented by experts. Following the presentations, the audience participates in a discussion that links the two unrelated topics together

Art Fitness

- This four-week workshop is designed to help participants develop an ability to appreciate contemporary art. With an emphasis on careful looking and easy to grasp principles, this course is designed to give all audiences the basic skills necessary to access even the most difficult contemporary art. Works of art by regional artists provide the backdrop for these workshops.

School of Music Reform

- This is a six-week program held in the fall. It includes an experimental music performance followed by discussion. The program is designed to connect general audiences with advanced music. Each session focuses on a single major composer or performer such as Charles Mingus, Philip Glass, Terry Riley, Laurie Anderson, Frank Zapp and Bjork.

Mishugas

- Mishugas is a monthly contemporary art lecture series designed for beginners as well as those who want to expand the way they think about art. Lectures are hosted every first Thursday of the month, October through May.

Block 7

- Belmar features the design works from the region including furniture, graphic design and horticulture. Through partnerships with design, business professionals, artists and students, Block 7 has been created to serve as the center for the Denver design community. Seven individual storefronts and one main gallery house a dynamic schedule of exhibits and events.

The Market at Belmar

- Held Sundays May through October. Homegrown flavor, European-atmosphere, Italian gelati, French-style crepes, all-American BBQ. The Market at Belmar features 35 vendors offering fruits, vegetables, fresh flowers, culinary herbs, baked goods, hand-made soaps and French tablecloths. The Market also features an urban gardening series, chef demonstrations, a pancake breakfast and open bocce.

A Paris Street Market

- A unique mixture of the artful and eclectic comes together to create the wonderful whimsy of Parisian style every third Saturday May through September. Enjoy this shabby, chic antique flea market featuring over 50 unique vendors.

Festival Italiano

- An annual fall festival that celebrates the sights, sounds and flavors of Italy. Components of Festival Italiano include an Italian Food and Wine Festival, a bocce ball tournament, free Italian lessons, wine lectures and tastings, chef demonstrations and more.

BAAAD Award and Exhibition

The Belmar Award for Achievements in Art and Design (BAAAD) has been established to identify and recognize extraordinary work by Colorado artists and designers. It is free and open to the public.

- This biannual program is the largest existing award specifically for Colorado artists and designers.
- Distinguished selection committees composed of individuals recognized in the art and design community select one grand-prize winner and four finalists in each category.
- The works of these five artists and five designers will be on display at Belmar for two months.