

Media Contact:
Tom Sluis
Communications Manager
(970) 759-7180
Tom.Sluis@DurangoGov.org

949 E. 2nd Avenue
Durango, CO 81301
DurangoGov.org

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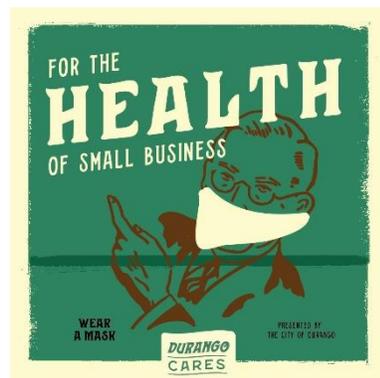
NEWS RELEASE

Friday Grit Gatherings bring live music, encourage support for businesses

Durango, CO: The city of Durango with support from the [Business Improvement District](#) and [Local First](#) introduces Durango Grit Gatherings downtown from 4 to 7 p.m. Fridays, Feb. 26, March 5 and March 12. The gatherings, part of the Durango Cares! campaign, will feature live music from local musicians on 10th street, between Narrow Gauge and Main avenues. Tables and chairs will be set up in the area to encourage takeout dining and shopping at downtown businesses.

QR codes will be placed on tables to provide easy access to menus from restaurants on Main Avenue. Community members can grab takeout dinner from their favorite local spot, pull up to a table and enjoy music and fresh air dining at the Grit Gathering. Alcoholic drinks will not be permitted in the gathering area.

“We recognize eating indoors is still not comfortable for many people,” said Tanya Clegg, Director of Marketing and Communications for the Durango Business Improvement District. “By offering outdoor seating and live music, something our community loves and has been missing these past months, we hope to see more people shopping locally during this time when downtown businesses and restaurants need us the most.”



The closed off area will have staff to ensure social distancing and help sanitize tables throughout the event. Masks must be worn in the area when not sitting/eating at tables with friends or family members in your group. Because these are open-aired events, if inclement weather with precipitation is expected, gatherings will be postponed or cancelled. Updates will be posted on city of Durango social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Nextdoor).

“We want to reward our resilient community for continuing to wear their masks while supporting our downtown businesses as we make our way through the winter months,” City Manager José Madrigal said. “I look forward to the opportunity to offer live music while ensuring social distancing, which will help raise all of our spirits.”

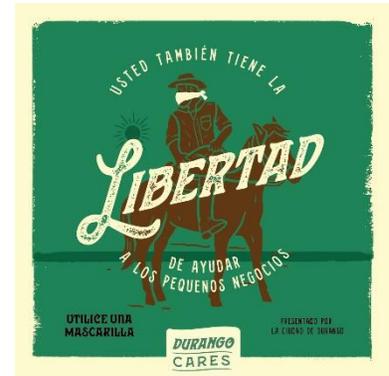
The city launched the Durango Cares! campaign in January to promote continued mask wearing as Durango's ticket to freedom as the city continues to navigate COVID-19.

The campaign is highlighted on social media, Durango Government Television (DGOV), Durango Herald advertisements and by businesses in the community. Physical advertisements will soon be rolled out on sidewalks, store windows and posters. The Friday gatherings will bring the campaign to life.

Durango businesses, organizations and community members are encouraged to share Durango Cares! materials. A variety of materials and images, including social media graphics, Zoom backgrounds and posters are available at

DurangoGov.org/DurangoCares.

Some materials also are available in Spanish.



For more information about city programs supporting businesses, visit DurangoGov.org/covid19

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