



April 6, 2004
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Joe Frank, President, (970) 221-6376

Four Local Businessmen Receive Awards for Encouraging Renovation of Historic Buildings

The nonprofit Fort Collins Local Development Company presented awards April 1 to Carey Hewitt (The Cupboard), Dave Veldman and Mitch Morgan (Veldman Morgan Commercial), and Joe Zahn (Construction Lending Services) for years of meritorious service in providing low-interest loans to renovate Old Town and other Fort Collins businesses.

The former LDC board members were recognized during the organization's regular monthly meeting at Poudre Fire Authority headquarters in downtown. Hewitt served on the LDC board for 19 years, Veldman for 17 years, Morgan for 14 years and Zahn for 11 years.

"One of the downtown's biggest attractions is its historical appearance," said Hewitt, who added that new "lifestyle centers" are trying to recreate the feel that places like Old Town have. "...We have an obligation to take care of it and enhance it; it's one way of saying thanks to the community for your support."

"I've always been proud to be part of the LDC because it's a nonprofit that's funded with public money and 25 years later, we're still funding project after project," Veldman said.

Since its inception in 1977, the LDC and its all-volunteer board have helped sustain downtown's vitality by funding more than 100 projects. Recent loans include Bisetti's Italian Restaurant and North Pointe Community Church.

"It's exciting to loan money and see businesses improve, but I was frustrated when other people would not fix up their building," Hewitt said. "It was being short-sighted; it's going to have a negative impact both on their own businesses and downtown as a whole. As downtown, we have to make the businesses the best we can."

The LDC board members are Joe Frank (City of Fort Collins), Scott Smith (Coopersmith Brewing), Kermit Allard (Allard, Klick & Company), Jared Goodman (The Group), Jeff Nuttall (*The Northern Colorado Business Report*), Luke Santangelo (Santangelo Law Offices), Patty Spencer (Realtec), Mikal Torgerson (M. Torgerson Architect) and Jim Trupp (First National Bank).

For more information, visit www.fcldc.com or call (970) 221-6376.

###