

# Media Advisory: Invitation to a Press Conference

**“We Have a Vision!” Globeville Elyria Swansea Coalition to Deliver Comments Before City Council’s Vote on the 2021 GO Bond Package to Publicly Fund an Arena on Public Land at the National Western Center**

**Who:** Globeville Elyria Swansea Coalition Organizing for Health and Housing Justice

**Speakers:** D9 Councilwoman Candi CdeBaca, Alfonso Espino, Angela Garcia, Mercedes Gonzalez, Angelina Torres and Alma Urbano

**When:** Monday August 23rd at 4pm

**Where:** 1437 Bannock Street in front of the City County Building

Community members from Globeville and Elyria-Swansea invite neighbors, supporters and media to attend a **Press Conference in front of the City council Building at 4pm on Monday, August 23rd**, where Globeville and Elyria-Swansea community members will share a community-centered vision for planning, developing and stewarding the remaining public land on the “Triangle” at National Western.

This [community-directed plan](#) will provide a pathway that returns economic growth for the City of Denver while also offering important services and investments for the GES community. And unlike the City’s plan, the community-plan will be developed through a detailed, equitable planning process with the community as equity partners.

**Background:** Despite early and wide-spread opposition, Mayor Hancock has rushed the 2021 “RISE Denver” GO Bond package to include \$190M of public funding (about 42% of the \$450M proposed in the bond) in order to to develop an new 10,000 seat Arena and a Public Market at the 1909 Building, on public land known as “The Triangle”, located at the National Western Complex. The Mayor, who has led much of [the development process at National Western](#) since 2015, is [now pushing for more bond funding without a formal plan](#). The Mayor also continues to ignore recommendations of the City of Denver’s own feasibility study, based on ten-year old data. The feasibility study, conducted in 2017, shows much of the proposed development may also be economically untenable, even without considering the ongoing economic fallout to the tourism and entertainment industries, that have been thrown into great economic doubt since the beginning of the pandemic.

After receiving \$865M in public funding in 2015, the National Western and the City of Denver have continued to make empty promises to the Elyria-Swansea and Globeville communities, and after six years, the [majority of these so-called “community benefits” remain unadvanced and unfulfilled today](#). The Mayor has not been able to deliver on promises to the community, has not made any real equitable commitments, has prevented an equitable process, and has prevented meaningful participation or partnership with the community. The Mayor’s development process of the public land at National Western’s “Triangle” has been formally rejected by the community as both unjust and inequitable, first in [May 2020](#) and again [earlier this week](#).

The last remaining public land at the National Western should be used specifically to develop a community vision through the community-ownership of land, [as an act of reparations](#) for National Western’s ongoing legacy of dispossession, which began with the forced removal of indigenous peoples from this land. Decade after decade since, much of what is public land today at the “Triangle” has been taken by [dispossession](#) and [eminent domain](#).

To learn more about GES Coalition, visit [www.gescoalition.com](http://www.gescoalition.com) and [www.wedecidethefuture.net](http://www.wedecidethefuture.net)