

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

## Proclamation No. 22-0218

**Celebrating the life of Larry Ambrose, the ultimate renaissance man, promoter of the arts, and pursuer of social justice**

**WHEREAS**, Larry was born in Pueblo, Colorado to Aubrey and Harriett Ambrose in 1945. Aubrey owned two businesses, an Army Navy Surplus store and a shoe store; and

**WHEREAS**, Larry graduated from Pueblo Central High, attended CU Boulder with a marketing major, and attended UCLA, obtaining a Business in Arts Degree in 1968, being the first person in the country to get a degree in arts administration; and

**WHEREAS**, Larry began his career as an empresario of the arts at the age of nine, promoting the fledgling piano talents of his friend, Fred Wanger, in a local talent contest. Fred went on to become a noted pianist. He later managed a number of bands, including Ash Grove Club – LA's #1 place for live music, and managed the AAA Band – musicians originally from San Francisco, living in a commune in Walsenburg; and recognized the remarkable talent of a new friend he had made, a Denver woman who had never performed in public, but had a great voice. He urged her to sit in at one of his band rehearsals to give it a try. The audition didn't go particularly well, but Larry urged her not to give up. That young woman, Lannie Garrett, has become one of Denver's truly legendary entertainers, largely due to Larry's early encouragement; and,

**WHEREAS**, Larry met Jane Parker in 1972 when she showed up at the Rio Grande Saloon on Santa Fe Drive, looking for good funky music. She worked for the Denver Symphony. Jane ran into Larry again at a bar on Colorado and Evans four years later where his band was playing, and she said she remembered his eyes. Larry called her the next day to ask her out to listen to music; and,

**WHEREAS**, Jane and Larry started seeing each other regularly and she moved into his house and became part of the commune. She told Larry she wanted to get married, and he said "ok". They eloped in Reno, NV along with their friends Judy and Jack Wartell who also tied the knot. The Ambrose's traveled to Europe and Mexico, went skiing and loved kite flying. Their home was always filled with friends, food, joy, and love, just like his family home in Pueblo; and

**WHEREAS**, From 1996 – 2014, Larry commuted back and forth to Pueblo to take care of his mother and to manage the family business. While there, he was hired as the manager of the Pueblo Convention Center and turned it into a vibrant place with concerts and artists while still managing the family business; and

**WHEREAS**, At the age of 59, Larry went to DU law school, earning a JD, but was too busy with multiple jobs to study to pass the Bar; and,

**WHEREAS**, Larry was involved in the formation and advocacy of Denver neighborhood groups since 1973, when he and Jane started one of Denver's first RNO's, Northwest Neighbors; and

**WHEREAS**, In the early 1980's Larry and Frank Quintana (former DFD Captain) co-founded Jefferson, Highland, Sunnyside (JHS) Neighborhood Association. He and Jane helped pioneer the LoHi Business District on 15th Street where they both had businesses in 2004, and were founding members of Sloan's Lake Neighborhood Association, where Larry served as Vice President until his passing; and,



**WHEREAS**, As Community Relations Director of the Auraria Campus, he wrote the policies on community use of space and more notably, saved the Golda Meir House from the wrecking ball when it was moved to the Ninth Street Historic Park in 1988 where it was restored and named to the National Register of Historic Places; and

**WHEREAS**, Larry was a member of the Platte Area Reclamation Committee where he advocated for a major city park in Central Platte Valley and was subsequently appointed by Mayor McNichols as the neighborhood representative to the Central Platte Valley planning committee: and,

**WHEREAS**, Larry and Gertie Grant co-chaired a citywide building height control initiative that was on the ballot in 1985. He was a leader in saving historic buildings in the Highlands and getting power lines buried in Highland Square business district. He worked with Councilman Sal Carpio in creating the Viking Park entryway into NW Denver and establishing Denver's system of dog parks; and,

**WHEREAS**, Larry served on numerous City planning committees and task force groups. He served on the INC board for nine years as Secretary, Vice President and President. He initiated the creation of INC's website, logo, and branding. He established a record of activism and advocacy through INC Resolutions to Denver City government officials and initiated, at the behest of Kathleen Wells, the creation of platforms for INC's committees, starting with Parks. He formed the INC Parks Designation Committee and appointed its first members. He initiated the Silent Auction at INC Annual Awards dinners, and with help from Jane Lorimer, taking the dinners to a new level of success. Larry held Executive Committee retreats for the first time that included building INC's current mission statement to advocate for Denver citizens by bringing together, informing, and empowering Denver neighborhood organizations to actively engage in addressing City issues. In 2021 INC gave Larry the Lifetime Achievement award for his work in Denver communities; and,

**WHEREAS**, Larry recently served as Executive Director for Southwest Improvement Council (SWIC) even through the time he was sick. SWIC's purpose is to improve living conditions for its residents through civic engagement, health and human service programs and affordable housing; and

**WHEREAS**, Larry Ambrose enjoyed a life well lived filled with music, joy, purpose, meaning, connection, friendship, and love. If you were a friend of Larry's, you were a friend for life. He indeed spent a "lifetime" of commitment to address the betterment of Denver's neighborhoods; and,

**WHEREAS**, Larry is survived by wife of 48 years, Jane Parker-Ambrose; Cousin David (Laura) Hausman of Corpus Christi, Texas and many, many other cousins; He was laid to rest on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at Emanuel Cemetery within Fairmount Cemetery.

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

**Section 1.** That the Council of the City and County of Denver honors Larry Ambrose for his countless contributions to our community and declares today, February 14, 2022 to be Larry Ambrose Day, and honors his memory.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation, and a copy be provided to his wife, Jane Parker-Ambrose.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL February 14, 2022



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David", written over a horizontal line.

PRESIDENT