



Meet "Malinda," downtown's newest mural, commissioned by DPH in partnership with the Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel. Adorning the alley on the north side of the hotel, "Malinda" pays tribute to both the Noter's legacy and the rich life of Malinda "Malindy" Curtis, whose spirit is said to inhabit the alley more than 100 years after her passing. "Malinda" was brought to life by local artists Hugo Medina and Darin Arriaga-Havale. DPH and the Renaissance will host a dedication ceremony for "Malinda" on Friday, June 16, 6:30 p.m. Photo by Lauren Potter

From the Desk of David Krietor June 9, 2017

It's official. Phoenix is #5. Phoenix, Arizona is the fifth most populated city in the country and #1 in population growth according to the U.S. Census Bureau. That's quite an achievement, and one that according to pundits has significant [gains](#) as well as some [challenges](#). And as I noted in my recent [column](#) in the Arizona Republic and comments by Chris Mackey, our city's Community and Economic Development Director, our downtown has played a big part in Phoenix's resurgence in terms of business development and quality of life. A denser, more populated urban core that takes advantage of our built infrastructure costs taxpayers less and is more sustainable.

In other Downtown Phoenix news ...

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

[Quicken Loans](#) is considering locating downtown pending a Phoenix City Council decision on [parking and transit incentives](#). [Splash](#), a New York City-based event marketing firm, is hiring staff and moving downtown. As told in the pages of USA Today, [Phoenix's tech scene](#) is growing in its historic downtown warehouse district.

Residential development continues to be on everyone's minds, from what's proposed for [Arizona Center](#), who's moving to [downtown condos](#) (millennials and baby boomers), who's getting [Government Property Lease Excise Tax \(GPLET\)](#) incentives, and where the [most expensive and affordable](#) rental units are located.

[Three new hotels](#) mean hundreds of new guest rooms, and Phoenix officials hope these and more hotels in the planning stages mean [more conventioners and visitors](#). Indicative of an upswing in convention activity has been Phoenix Comicon and [National Council of La Brea Annual Conference](#).

Congratulations to the team that designed and constructed the University of Arizona's [Biomedical Sciences Partnership Building](#) for receiving the 2017 North American Copper in Architecture Award. Congrats also to [CoSpaces](#) and [Galantia](#) for being named #4 and #12 respectively on Inc. Magazine's list of the top 23 coworking spaces in the U.S. And happy 25th anniversary to [Talking Stick Resort Arena](#).

FOODIE NEWS

In happy news: [State 48 Brewery and Brewpub](#) is opening in the historic Weink Building on W. Van Buren. [Press Coffee](#) at Central and McDowell is opening. The shuttered Roosevelt Tavern space in Evans Churchill is being reborn as [The Noodle Restaurant](#). The popular [CultivEAT Farm-to-Table Dinner](#) in Evans Churchill was held for the third year. And Flagstaff-based [SoSaba Noodle Shop](#) gains popularity at its Roosevelt Row location. In sad news: [Bizza People Pub](#) on North Central and Tom's Tavern at Central and 1st Avenue have closed, but you could buy a bit of history from Tom's [Farmers markets](#), like the Downtown Phoenix Public Market at Central and Pierce, are blooming. [Vegans and vegetarians](#) have more dining options in Downtown Phoenix and statewide. More local restaurants are participating in [Arizona Restaurant Week](#) as Downtown Phoenix's reputation as a [burgeoning culinary hot spot](#) grows.

CARING COMMUNITY

As a caring and compassionate community, individuals, non-profit organizations, public servants, and businesses continue to tackle pressing issues:

[Homelessness](#). While more homeless are being placed in housing, the Valley has seen a [surge in homeless camps](#). Helping to alleviate the problem, [St. Vincent de Paul](#) broke ground on their homeless campus expansion and the [Justa Center](#) is addressing the increase in older homeless individuals.

[The Environment](#). The City of Phoenix could require space for [recycling bins](#) at new apartments. After the financial difficulties of The Great Recession, the city and community are redoubling efforts to [rehabilitate](#) the city's tree canopy, as called for in the Council-approved Tree and Shade Master Plan. Sometimes it starts with [one young entrepreneur](#) with a love of plants to encourage others. And anyone out there with significant "green" achievements is encouraged to nominate their project for an Arizona Forward 2017 Environmental Excellence Award. [The application deadline is 4 p.m. on July 7.](#)

[Food Desert](#). Helping to alleviate the lack of healthy food options for residents are [public markets](#), grocery stores in central locations (like the proposed [Fry's Grocery Store](#) in downtown Phoenix), and innovations like [Don's Fresh Express](#) mobile produce store.

OUR LOCAL ARTS SCENE

While the winds of change continue to impact the [Roosevelt Row Artists District](#), Downtown's [Third Friday](#) art walk evolves. [Valley Metz](#) transforms public spaces into art galleries, murals highlight downtown's [history](#), the achievements of [Arizona Latinos](#), and thanks to the [ASU Graffiti Gang](#) where to find murals in the city, Artlink announces a call for "Artist Forward" grant applications, the [McDowell Mountain Music Festival](#) at Hance Park announces its 2018 dates. And the local arts community rallies to support a [downtown gallery owner](#) in her fight with cancer.

IN CLOSING

While the temperatures creep up and up, the calendar continues to be replete with an amazing array of events and activities all across Downtown Phoenix. Put on your sunglasses and take a peek, review, download, and share the latest DPI "What's Happening" guide. Subscribe to the "What's Happening" guide and the DTPHX Insider weekly e-newsletter in 15 seconds or less by [clicking here](#). And, if you have an event or activity to share, contact "What's Happening" editor David Stevenson by [email](#) or give him a call at [602-744-6419](#).

Finally, as always, what feedback do you have on things we still need to do downtown and where we could make improvements? Let's continue the progress we've been making together. Feel free to contact me by [email](#), office phone [602-254-8636](#), or call [602-744-5589](#). Or, join me at BioScience High School on Tuesday, June 20, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., for the "ASU Phoenix Biomedical Campus 'North of Fillmore' Visioning Process," where we'll discuss what the next phase of the Phoenix Biomedical Campus should look like.



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