

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Denver hosts free, community-focused programming in the heart of downtown for the Soccer Celebration at Skyline Park presented by the Colorado Rapids

DENVER, Colo. — Ahead of FIFA World Cup 2026™, Mayor Mike Johnston and the City and County of Denver have joined Street Soccer USA, the Colorado Rapids, and the Downtown Denver Partnership to prepare for an expansive slate of free, community-focused events at Skyline Park (16th Street & Arapahoe Street). Anchoring the Soccer Celebration in downtown, the Visa Street Soccer Park and Bank of America Fields will serve as the celebration's home pitch. The partnership transforms a central downtown block into a summer-long gathering and watch-party space centered on play, culture, and community.

"There's no better way to bring our city together than through the world's game," said Mayor Mike Johnston. "The Soccer Celebration at Skyline Park is about more than soccer; it's about a vibrant, welcoming downtown where every Denverite, no matter their background, has a place to gather, play, and belong."

World Cup festivities will run throughout the entire tournament, beginning with Mexico vs. South Africa at 1:00 p.m. this Thursday, June 11, 2026, and continuing with the USA vs. Paraguay at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 12, 2026. Mayor Mike Johnston plans to attend both matches and will be available to the media on Friday afternoon before kickoff.

At the center of the celebration, the Visa Street Soccer Park and Bank of America Fields at Skyline Park Block 1 offer drop-in play for all ages and structured community programming. Street Soccer USA will provide free, collaborative offerings, including youth soccer clinics, a citywide youth cup for athletes under 18, community impact panels, a sports and civic engagement speaker series, cultural performances, global art exhibits, and drop-in pickup and soccer activities for all ages.

"Instead of hosting only watch parties, we asked: why not a monthlong, citywide festival celebrating Denver's diversity and fostering long-term belonging?" said Dane Erickson, a Street Soccer USA Board Member and local Denver Chair. "Street Soccer USA's mission is to build community and fight poverty. This summer, Skyline Park becomes the place where that mission meets the world's most-watched sporting event."

The Soccer Celebration at Skyline Park presented by the Colorado Rapids will feature live viewings of over 100 FIFA World Cup 2026™ matches on a massive outdoor screen, along with local vendors, fan activations, and live music, creating an authentic Colorado gathering place all summer long. World Cup parties are expected to draw tens of thousands of fans throughout the tournament. In



accordance with municipal park curfews, matches will not be broadcast after 10:00 p.m.

“Bringing the World Cup back to North America is a major moment for our sport, particularly in how it brings people together,” said Colorado Rapids Chief Business Officer Haley Durmer. “Partnering with Street Soccer USA and the Downtown Denver Partnership helps us bring that global energy into the broader Colorado soccer community. This celebration goes far beyond the matches on screen, and the Rapids are excited to help create a vibrant, inclusive space where fans from across Colorado can gather around the game we love.”

To learn more, get involved, or volunteer, follow @streetsoccerden on Instagram. Get free tickets at <https://www.gofevo.com/event/SkylineParkSoccerCelebration>.

About Street Soccer USA Denver:

Since opening a state-of-the-art field in the heart of downtown and launching programming in November 2025, Street Soccer USA Denver has logged more than 10,000 hours of play, welcomed more than 1,500 players, and hosted more than 70 free events, including Thanksgiving pickup games, the Parade of Lights, the Rapids World Cup Soccer Celebration Announcement, and the Summit FC Kickoff Kickaround.

Media Contacts:

- Nicolás Arízaga, Communications Advisor, nicoa@streetsoccerusa.org, Street Soccer USA.
- Dane Erickson, National Board Member and Denver Chair, dane@streetsoccerusa.org, Street Soccer USA.

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