

The logo for the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art (BMoCA) features the letters "BMoCA" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letter "o" is stylized with a white circle inside it. The text is set against a solid black rectangular background.

Boulder Museum of
Contemporary Art

1750 13th Street
Boulder, Colorado 80302
303.443.2122

BMOCA.org

For Immediate Release

Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art (BMoCA) Announces Selection of SO-IL/Coburn for the NoBo Creative Campus Project

BOULDER, CO – February 11, 2025 – [BMoCA](#) and its partner, [Emerald Development](#), are thrilled to announce the selection of SO-IL, in collaboration with Boulder-based Coburn, as the architectural design team for the North Boulder Creative Campus project. [SO-IL](#), an internationally recognized firm with offices in New York and Amsterdam, has shown a dedication to creating exceptional civic spaces and looks forward to collaborating with its local partner, [Coburn](#).

The team was chosen through an extensive selection process initiated by an open call in May 2024, which attracted 65 teams from around the world. BMoCA Board President Tomas Mendez shared, “Knowing all that will go into this project, BMoCA’s Board was careful and invested in choosing the right team for this project. We are looking forward to partnering with SO-IL and Coburn as we move onto the next phase of this transformational project for Boulder and the museum.”

BMoCA Executive Director David Dadone said, “I am thrilled that SO-IL and Coburn are collaborating with BMoCA and the Boulder community to create a thoughtfully designed, sustainable space – one that will serve as a beacon for creative exploration, spark dialogue on important contemporary issues, and celebrate the transformative power of art. The team combines expertise in building inspiring and functional arts and culture spaces with an extensive knowledge of the complexities of building projects in Boulder. We can’t wait to begin designing BMoCA’s new home with SO-IL, Coburn and the Boulder community.”

“We are thrilled to have been selected by BMOCA and Emerald Development to envision a space that fosters creativity, dialogue, and a profound sense of belonging within this dynamic and ever-evolving city. The North Boulder Creative Campus offers an inspiring opportunity to develop a vibrant, inclusive community centered on the arts and collective engagement. Nestled at the foot of the majestic Rocky Mountains, this project enables us to craft a truly open and welcoming cultural space—one that seamlessly connects people,



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landscape, and architecture.”

- Jing Liu & Florian Idenburg / SO-IL

“The North Boulder Creative Campus is an incredible opportunity to elevate the arts in Boulder, and we're honored to help bring it to life. All of us at Coburn are thrilled to have reached this starting line and can't wait to collaborate with SO-IL, BMOCA, and Emerald Development to create something truly special in North Boulder!”

- Pete Weber / Coburn Architecture

The [NoBo Art District](#) in Boulder, Colorado, represents a long-awaited vision that has evolved over decades, beginning with the 1995 North Boulder Subcommunity Plan. Rooted in principles of beauty, diversity, inclusivity, and adaptability, this vision has shaped the district's development through multiple amendments, ensuring it aligns with the changing needs of the community. The North Boulder Creative Campus project plays a pivotal role in fulfilling the mission outlined in the long-range plan, bringing the area's artistic and economic potential to life and reinforcing its place as a vibrant cultural and creative hub for Boulder.

The North Boulder Creative Campus, located at the entrance of Boulder's NoBo Art District, will be a dynamic artistic hub anchored by BMOCA, featuring diverse housing, live-work spaces for creatives and the wider community, and commercial and retail areas. Designed with a commitment to sustainability, it will foster a vibrant, interconnected community where art and culture thrive. More information, including videos of the presentations can be found [here](#).

“We envision the museum not just as a destination but as a vital part of daily life. We believe that the arts play an integral role in community building, cultural production, and economic vitality. This project strengthens the North Boulder community by extending the creativity beyond the museum's walls to activate spaces for artistic expression and enhance the livelihoods of artists and the broader community.”

- Andrew Ghadimi / Emerald Development

With the architectural team selected, BMOCA and Emerald Development will collaborate with the community to begin designing the campus, with construction targeted to break ground sometime in 2027.

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About BMOCA

Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art (BMOCA) inspires creativity and fosters community through contemporary art. Since 1972 BMOCA has grown from an artist-founded arts center into a regional leader in amplifying artists and serving diverse communities. As a non-collecting museum, BMOCA annually serves 220,000+ people through 20+ exhibitions and 550+ programs at its flagship facility in Boulder, CO and 40+ partner locations across the Denver metro area. BMOCA supports artists through exhibitions, programs, commissions, and publications and features 225+ artists each year.

BMOCA is located at 1750 13th Street in downtown Boulder, Colorado. The museum is open 11am–5pm Tuesday–Sunday (Open at 9am on Saturdays & until 7:30pm on Wednesdays during Boulder County Farmers Market). Admission is “Pay from Your Heart.” BMOCA.org / 303.443.2122.

About SO-IL

SO-IL (Solid Objectives – Idenburg Liu) believes in open, thoughtful, and humanistic architecture that creates meaningful cultural and social impact. The studio is dedicated to designing transformative arts and civic projects that enrich communities and the environment. Founders Florian Idenburg and Jing Liu met in Tokyo in 2001 and formed SO-IL in New York City in 2008, with a vision of a global practice that merges craft and detail-oriented construction with intellectual rigor and a distinct aesthetic. The studio of skilled and committed architects is based in New York and Amsterdam and has cultivated a diverse international portfolio of critically acclaimed projects. Staying true to its founding ideology, SO-IL continues to play a leading role in the wider dialogue of architecture today through building, education, and publishing. www.so-il.org

About Coburn

Founded in 1985, Coburn Architecture brings deep local expertise in planning, refined building design, mixed-use development, and navigating complex land use entitlements to every project in Boulder, CO. An integrated approach—spanning development, architecture, and construction—ensures thoughtful, site-specific solutions that enhance communities. Close collaboration with city officials, local stakeholders, and community members streamlines approval processes and brings visionary projects to life. Explore the portfolio at www.coburnpartners.com.

About Emerald Development

Emerald Development, a subsidiary of The Ghadimi Group, develops inclusive and thoughtfully designed spaces for the communities they serve. Led by Andrew Ghadimi, the firm collaborates with city officials, civic leaders, and designers to create projects that balance function, sustainability, and community impact. With a growing portfolio of investments and projects across the United States, Emerald Development is committed to building equitable and vibrant neighborhoods.

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Media Contact

Jennifer Chaparro
jennifer@bmoca.org