

Big view of 'the Real LoDo' from a tour of four penthouse lofts on Blake, Wazee Streets



Kentwood City Properties' Dee Chirafisi shows off a big view from 1499 Blake 9-A, at \$925,000, one of four walkable properties on today's tour.

By Mark Samuelson

As in any big success, the definition of 'LoDo' rolled out to cover more ground and more distant projects in the decades after pioneers like Dana Crawford and Jerry Erlich turned their first LoDo properties into lofts and taverns. Today Dee Chirafisi, who worked on Lower Downtown projects for both of those pioneers, will let you tour four penthouses in the REAL LoDo – the part south of the Ballpark and east of Union Station, where it all began.

Each loft is on Blake Street or Wazee, all within a short walk. For the 2-4 p.m. tour you can park free today at downtown meters; however, Atlanta First Baseman Freddie Freeman (six home runs) steps into the batter's box at 1 p.m., and this might be a good day instead to try Denver's B-Cycle bike-share program (join at Denver.BCycle.com) and peddle into a B-Cycle rack directly across from 1435 Wazee, Unit 403. It's a spectacular two-story loft with a corner view, right down the block from the historic Wazee Supper Club.

That along with 1301-4D Wazee (across the bridge over the creek, genuine brick-timber with a view of the Pepsi Center, \$769,000) are each in historic buildings; while the two on Blake are 'new' lofts; including 1560 Blake in the Market Square building, 2-bedroom with penthouse-deck, only \$679,900. "When you see all that's happening at the Union Station project, it reminds you just how extraordinary it is to live inside the historic district," Chirafisi said, as we took in the big view from one of the four penthouse decks. That key area, she adds, has very little inventory in this hotter market – just 15 lofts \$200,000 to \$2 million, only nine of which are part of historic buildings.

When you see Chirafisi and her other Kentwood City Properties agents, you can wish them 'Happy Anniversary' on 13 years since the company opened its LoDo office (now on 17th across from Union Station). Properties are all within two blocks of 14th and Blake; from I-25 take Auraria Parkway into downtown and continue north onto Market Street to 15th, then left to Blake and Wazee.

IF YOU GO...

WHERE: Walkable tour of 4 LoDo lofts all in the historic district, all views; 1499 Blake, 1560 Blake, 1301 Wazee, 1435 Wazee (B-Cycle rack across street, or park free at meters Sunday). Take Aurora Pkwy exit from I-25, north as it continues onto Market, left at 15th.

PRICE: \$679,900 to \$995,000

WHEN: Today, 2-4 p.m.

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