## WEEKENDER

## Denver's Golden Triangle



The bold new History Colorado Center is packed with treasures.

t the heart of downtown Denver, the Golden Triangle pulses with the activity of urban professionals and artists. Visitors can ponder massive canvases, journey into the earth in a simulated mineshaft, or sip Brazilian rum on a sunny patio.

Area code is 303 except as noted.

## TO DO AND SEE Clyfford Still Museum

Stroll through sycamores to the new home of 2,400 works by abstract expressionist Clyfford Still. Study a colossal painting or peer into a studio where workers restretch canvases and secure flaking paint. 1250 Bannock St., (720) 354-4880, clyfford stillmuseum.org. Dazzle Jazz This club draws such greats as Latin singer Magos Herrera and pianist Ralph Sharon. Enjoy the tunes with fried green tomatoes and a Razzle Dazzle martini. 930 Lincoln St., 839-5100, dazzlejazz.com. Denver Art Museum Catch the blockbuster show Yves Saint Laurent: The Retrospective through July 8. Fashion Studio, a related show running through September 9, lets you design a dress or practice your runway walk. 100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy., (720) 865-5000, denverartmuseum.org. History Colorado Center Visitors push "time machines" across a huge map to activate screens showing scenes from the Colorado-Texas tomato wars and other events. Others take simulated rides in a Model T or try their hand at setting dynamite. 1200 Broadway, 447-8679, historycoloradocenter.org.

## **SHOPPING** Native American Trading

Company Find prayer feathers, painted Puebloan mugs, and flint arrowheads old enough to have been used to hunt mastodons. 213 W. 13th Ave., 534-0771, nativeamericantradingco.com. Urban Roots Wander among ornamental grasses, dwarf trees, and bearberry shrubs at this nursery in a 1938 mechanics garage; or buy a small stone "moon bunny" to bring luck to your yard. 1000 Acoma St., 893-4064, urbanrootsdenver.com.

**EATS** Le Central Choose among 11 Provençal mussel dishes, then savor perfect crème brûlée. 112 E. 8th Ave., 863-8094, lecentral.com. Cuba Cuba Café and Bar Elephant palms mark this urban oasis where patrons sip blood-orange mojitos, dig into puerco frito (roasted pork), and groove to Tito Puente. 1173 Delaware St., 605-2822, cubacubacafe .com. Dozens Try the Civic Center (chicken salad on a croissant), the Brown Palace (a classic BLT), or other items named for local landmarks. 236 W. 13th Ave., 572-0066, dozensdenver.com.

GET GOING Request the Colorado & Utah TourBook and the Colorado-Wyoming map at AAA .com or any AAA branch. To find a place to stay, visit AAA.com/hotels. For more information, contact Visit Denver: 1600 California St., Unit 6, 892-1505, denver.org. — MEGAN MCCREA