At a time when we’ve lost so much, we can keep the art, culture and scientific discovery that sustains us by reconnecting with its value in our lives. We’re featuring the creators, connectors and collaborators who help us make a better world.

**Jeff Lapin**

Local artist focuses on his own work and the cultural future of his community

Jeff Lapin will be the first one to tell you he spent about 40 years as a magazine
Then retirement came. Suddenly, he had the time and space to reconnect directly with art and reimagine himself as the artist he had been during his undergraduate years of college. That is, until reality struck.

“I just could not create anything worth keeping,” Lapin said of his early forays into painting landscapes. “I wanted to fulfill my need to create, but it took years of classes to arrive at a place where my work is beginning to match my vision.”

After moving to Colorado, Lapin searched out a portrait instructor after studying the genre in Chicago. He feels blessed to have found Slawa Radziszewska, who teaches painting at the Lakewood Cultural Center. Through classes and personal experimentation, his work is continuously evolving.

“Creating portraits takes more discipline and more focus,” he said. “It’s exactly what I needed.” While he has shown his work in local galleries, he now is selling work at JeffLapinGallery.com and through commissions.

Around the same time, Lapin noticed a posting on Nextdoor about the need for volunteers for the Adams County Cultural Council. This council, Lapin learned, oversees the distribution of art and culture funding collected by the SCFD to dozens of organizations across Adams County and the entire Denver Metro area.

SCFD provided $66 million in funding to nearly 300 cultural organizations across the seven-county metro area in 2019.
The SCFD is proud to be a part of Arts Through It All, an effort to support the individuals that power our creative sector. If you can help, we urge you to join us in doing so.

Denver Arts Week 2020 will pivot to Denver Arts Week(end) this year

What is Denver Arts Week(end)? Now in its 14th year, Denver Arts Week(end), Nov. 6-8, is a celebration of all things art in The Mile High City. Featuring in-person, virtual and hybrid events with a cultural or arts focus. Spanning all arts and cultural genres including visual arts, performing arts, film and literature, music and more. Check it out at www.denverartsweek.com.

SCFD Board of Directors news

The SCFD is governed by a board of directors with representation from district member counties Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson. The board oversees district funding and ensures the district is running the way voters intended. The board meets eight times a year and all meetings are open to the public.

- The next board meeting will be held at 1 p.m. on Oct.22. Information about joining the virtual meeting will be posted ahead of the meeting date.

See the full calendar of 2020 board meetings and information.