



**Our understanding of the natural world
roots and connects us**



The annual Girls & Science event at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science

When you think of culture, what do you include? Maybe the traditions and holidays your family holds dear. Or your favorite works of art hanging in a museum or gallery. Or the festivals and events we celebrate as a collective each spring, summer and fall.

Do you add to this list foundational contributions made to us by the natural sciences and natural history? Maybe not.

But these “disciplines” function just like the more typical arts and culture experience we might include. The natural sciences and natural history ground us in a deeper understanding of who we are and where we come from, in all the

richness of our diversity. They inform our current state of being and connect us to the natural world all around us. And the clarity of the information they offer can also illuminate possible paths forward. Organizations who provide this critical element to our larger understanding of culture have been elemental to the SCFD since its inception.

As we prepare to celebrate Earth Day, the SCFD honors the contributions of the dozens of organizations it funds whose scientific missions educate, enhance and illuminate our understanding of the world around us.

[Read more and meet our partners >](#)



We fund culture.

**Even during the
pandemic, the SCFD
provided 300+
arts and culture
organizations with
\$63,000,000**



Engage with Us

Give back to the non-profit organizations that give to you

Coloradans can give all or part of their state income tax refund directly to one of more than 7,750 eligible nonprofits registered with the state. Through the Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit program, taxpayers can choose to directly support an eligible Colorado-registered charity with a simple designation on their state income tax return. [Learn more at ReFund Colorado.](#)

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 meeting of the SCFD Board of Directors will be held virtually at 1 p.m. on April 22. [Get more information for joining meetings and see the full calendar of 2021 board meetings.](#)

Board Spotlight

To help you learn a little more about the leadership of the district, we'll be featuring a brief spotlight on each of our current members of the SCFD Board of Directors. SCFD board members represent each of the district's seven-member counties and are appointed by the county commissioners in their county. In addition, the governor appoints four members.



Marcela de la Mar, Board Secretary and Governor's Appointee

Marcela de la Mar is a widely recognized leader for her work with diverse communities across Colorado. Marcela recently stepped down from a 23-year tenure as the Executive Director of the Mexican Cultural Center where she oversaw the expansion of cultural programming to hundreds of thousands of Colorado residents. Her work in reinvesting in the Mexican community in Colorado earned The Mexican Cultural Center the 2017 Mayor's Award for Cultural Impact. Marcela has also maintained an active roster of boards on which she serves, including the Board of Governors of the Denver Zoo, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the Global Chamber Denver. Past board service has included the Emily Griffith Foundation, Museum of Contemporary Art and the Denver Children's Museum. She joined the board in May 2018. Her 1st term expires in May 2021.