



Thoughts on freedom

During July celebrations of our nation's founding, our thoughts often turn toward the nature of freedom as it relates to the higher calling of our country's creed. We might also think about that concept in the context of freedom to live our lives to their fullest potential and in the ways we each determine individually, regardless of our abilities and challenges.

This July, we pause to reflect on the 31st Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Signed into law on July 26, 1990, the act represented the first steps toward inclusion for the one in five Americans who live with some form of disability. While there is still much progress to be made, this first acknowledgment in federal law that discrimination in employment, public accommodation, public services, transportation and telecommunications would not be tolerated marked the beginning of real and sustainable change.

In the Denver metro area, this real change included the growth and expansion of the disability community across the arts and culture landscape. Organizations sprouted from this inclusive moment are now mainstays of our performing and visual arts offerings for all Coloradans. Here are the stories of a few who contribute to this shared experience. Meet Teri Wagner, a dance and performance pioneer and founder of Spoke N Motion, Jocelyn Roy, a working graphic artist at Access Gallery and Ben Raanan, the new artistic director for Phamaly Theater Company.

[Meet the artists >](#)

[Spoke N Motion](#)

[Phamaly Theater](#)

[Access Gallery](#)



We fund culture.

In normal times, SCFD-funded organizations provide arts, culture and science events to every school district in the metro area



Engage with Us

You can help chart your county's cultural future

Each year, community members from across the Denver metro area gather to grant millions of dollars to arts, culture and science organizations in their cities, towns and neighborhoods. Just one penny on every \$10 spent in the seven-county area – collected by the SCFD – make this possible. [You can meet individuals currently serving on cultural councils across the metro area.](#)

You can learn more about opportunities in your county.

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 Aug. 26. [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.

The entire SCFD family would like to extend its thanks to outgoing board members Kendra Black, who represented Denver County and Carlos Martinez, who was a gubernatorial appointee. Their dedication and service helped make the district stronger and ensured that it will continue to serve the people of the metro area for years to come.



Kendra Black **Denver County Appointee**

Kendra Black was born and raised in southeast Denver a graduate of Denver's Thomas Jefferson High School, with a BA in history and political science and an MA in history from the University of Colorado. Her experience includes work in non-profits, education and community outreach. She recently left her job at the

University of Colorado Denver where she ran a statewide academic program to serve on Denver City Council. Councilwomen Black joined the board in July 2015.



Carlos Martinez **Gubernatorial Appointee**

Mr. Martinez is a senior executive with a long track record of leadership, organizational management, and nonprofit expertise. Currently, Carlos serves as the Executive Director of the Latino Community Foundation of Colorado, with the mission to strength the Latino community of

Colorado through community impact, human capital, and philanthropy. Previously, Carlos was the CEO of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center of Colorado and the Executive Director of the Fresno Art Museum in Fresno, CA. Currently, he is on the board of the Colorado Health Foundation, Vice President of the Denver Public Library Commission and is an honorary board member of the GLBT Community Center of Colorado. He joined the board on May 2018.

