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SCFD executive director will step down in 2025

Jordy set to assume senior advisor role

(DENVER, Nov. 25, 2024) – SCFD Executive Director Deborah Jordy will step down from her role at the district’s helm on June 30, 2025. A fixture on the national, regional and local arts and cultural scene, Jordy will move into a role as the district’s senior advisor on a host of issues including reauthorization.

Jordy began her tenure as SCFD head in 2016, following the successful reauthorization of the district, an effort in which Jordy played an integral role. That district reauthorization was the third time voters had overwhelmingly voted to keep the district running and assured the SCFD of 40 years of existence.

“If you are working in the arts and culture arena in the Denver metro area, you know Deborah, have been mentored by Deborah or directly benefit from work Deborah has done,” said Jacki Cooper Melmed, Chair of the SCFD Board of Directors. “Her stewardship of the SCFD is just one more example of the impact she has had on arts and culture for nearly 50 years.”

During her nearly decade-long tenure heading the SCFD, Jordy focused much of her work on breaking down barriers to access and building up district presence. To that end, she updated the SCFD through successfully transitioning its brand and digital presence. She elevated awareness of the district through a variety of outreach and organizational efforts. She enhanced the relationships between the district’s funded organizations, resulting in greater collaboration for the patrons and members of these valued visual and performance organizations. Jordy led through the pandemic, where the district was able to deliver more than \$74 million in general operating support annually to organizations, many that were shuttered for nearly two years. This support ensured that the metro area’s arts and cultural organizations survived.

“It is difficult to overstate the impact that Deborah has had on arts and culture in our region and beyond,” said Denver City Councilwoman Jamie Torres, Vice Chair of the

SCFD Board of Directors. “While her daily leadership presence will be hard to replace, we look forward to keeping her on board to provide the advice and counsel that only she can.”

Jordy began her career as a practicing artist. She transitioned to become one of only a handful of female curators who were the barrier breakers at the Denver Art Museum. She went on to be the first woman to lead the Arvada Center and the Cherokee Ranch & Castle Foundation. Before taking the reins of the SCFD, she served as executive director of the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts.

She has served on many of the state and nation’s most important boards including her more than decade-long service on the board of Americans for the Arts and her nearly decade-long service on the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Board of Directors. She has used this volunteer service not only to support her own passion for the arts, but also to ensure that the value and impact of arts and culture are represented in Colorado and nationally.

“This was a difficult decision because I am passionate about my work, all the people I serve and the importance arts and culture play in society,” Jordy said. “It has been an honor and a great privilege to lead SCFD over the past eight years. Serving the hundreds of SCFD-funded cultural organizations, and the residents of the district, has been the pinnacle of my professional career. I am looking forward to continuing my service to the district in a new capacity as senior advisor, which will allow me to continue the work I love so much while dedicating more time to my other passions outside the workplace.”

THE SCFD

SCFD is the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District, a tax collected and distributed to more than 300 cultural organizations in our seven-county Denver metro region including Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties. Just one penny on every \$10 spent in the district creates vibrancy for us individually and collectively. Beginning with taxpayers and with the expert shepherding of the SCFD, our collective mission is simple: We fund culture. In 2023, the district provided \$84 million in funding to organizations.

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