



**SCFD Board Meeting**  
August 28, 2025  
1pm at Swallow Hill Music  
**Public packet**



## SCFD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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Thursday, August 28, 2025

Swallow Hill Music Association, Daniels Hall  
71 East Yale Ave., Denver, CO 80210

### DIRECTORS

**Jacki Cooper Melmed**, Chair  
Governor Appointee

**Councilwoman  
Jamie Torres**,  
Vice-Chair  
Denver County

**Dan Brown**,  
Secretary  
Douglas County

**Suzanne Crawford**,  
Treasurer  
Broomfield County

**Eva Henry**  
Adams County

**Randy Perlis**  
Arapahoe County

**Teresa Valerio  
Parrot**  
Boulder County

**Gino Greco**  
Jefferson County

**Amos Kazzaz  
Patty Salazar  
Tamra Ward**  
Governor Appointees

**Deborah Jordy**  
Executive Director

### AGENDA

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1. Introductions and Quorum Determination
2. Welcome from Jessy Clark, Swallow Hill Music
3. Review & Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of July 24, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes
5. Reports
  - 5.1 Treasurer
  - 5.2 Chairperson
  - 5.3 Executive Director
6. Tier II 2025 Distribution Certification
  - 6.1 Presentations from Tier II Organizations (5 min. per organization)
  - 6.2 Resolution 25-06: Pertaining to Organizations Qualifying for 2025 Tier II Funds
7. Proclamation Honoring Deborah Jordy's Service to the District
8. Other Matters (new/old business)
9. Public Comment
10. Adjournment

### Next scheduled SCFD Board Meeting

Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.  
Filipino-American Community of Colorado  
1900 N Harlan St.  
Edgewater, CO 80214

## SCFD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

July 24, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

Firehouse Theater Company

Meeting Minutes

**SCFD Board members present:** Vice-Chair Councilperson Jamie Torres, Treasurer Suzanne Crawford, Secretary Dan Brown, Eva Henry, Amos Kazzaz, Randy Perlis, Patty Salazar, Tamra Ward, Teresa Valerio Parrot

**SCFD Board members not present:** Chairperson Jacki Cooper Melmed, Gino Greco

**SCFD staff present:** Executive Director Deborah Jordy, Deputy Director Jessica Kato, Program Officer Dana Manyothane, Program Officer Tim Murphy, Program Officer Kirsten Lang, Communications Manager Emma Mantooth, Executive Assistant Arlene Hicks

### 1. Introductions and Quorum Determination

Vice-Chair Jamie Torres called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., followed by introductions. A quorum was present.

### 2. Welcome from Helen Hand, Board President, Firehouse Theater Company

### 3. Review and Approval of Agenda

Dan Brown motioned to approve the meeting agenda. Tamra Ward seconded. Motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

### 4. Approval of May 22, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Amos Kazzaz motioned to approve the May Board meeting minutes. Dan Brown seconded. Motion to approve the May Board meeting minutes passed unanimously.

### 5. Reports

#### 5.1 Treasurer

Suzanne Crawford stated that the May 2025 SCFD sales and use tax revenue was \$7,254,607.91. The 2025 year-to-date (YTD) sales and use tax revenue is \$34,411,353.78. This compares to YTD 2024 sales and use tax revenue of \$33,942,864.33. The variance is \$468,489.45, a 1.38% increase in YTD 2025 over YTD 2024.

#### 5.2 Chairperson

In Jacki Cooper Melmed's absence, Vice-Chair Torres presented the Chairperson report. She thanked the Executive Director search committee members for their dedication and hard work during the search process. She also recognized the organizers of Deborah Jordy's "Play On" celebration held on Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Children's Museum of Denver. Mike Yankovich, FloraJane DiRienzo and their host committee created a joyful tribute to Deborah. Thanks to all who attended.

#### 5.3 Executive Director

Deborah Jordy also began her report by thanking the organizers and attendees of her party. She then provided the following updates:

- The 2026 budget is currently being drafted by Deborah, Jessica Kato and Gloria Nedved. It will be presented to the Board in September.
- Program Officers are processing Tier II certification reports and creating summaries for the Board in preparation for the August meeting. At that meeting, one-third of the Tier II grantees will present an update on their use of SCFD funds.
- Please join us at the Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG) on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. for the annual Engage, Empower and Connect (EEC) jointly produced by SCFD, DBG and the Collaborative of SCFD. This half-day capacity building event features sessions on Board development and creative revenue streams. The day will conclude with a networking reception, allowing grantees to meet and collaborate with each other.
- On Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to noon, there will be an in-person planning session for the Board. This will build on the January session topics of SCFD creation, history, structure and process in preparation for the 2028 reauthorization.
- Next month's (August) meeting will be Deborah's last as Executive Director. She will work with the new Executive Director for a transition period in September and begin in her Senior Advisor role in November.

Teresa Valerio Parrot asked if the October 9<sup>th</sup> planning session will address developments and impacts of cuts to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Deborah agreed to add that topic to the October agenda.

## **6. Fiscal Year 2024 Audit & Resolution**

### **6.1 Report by SCFD Auditor John Paul LeChevallier, CPA, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

John Paul LeChevallier presented the results of SCFD's 2024 audit. CliftonLarsonAllen issued an unmodified (clean) audit opinion, which is the highest level of opinion an organization can receive. No material weakness or significant deficiencies were identified and no audit adjustments were needed.

He recognized SCFD for sound financial management and controls that allowed for a smooth audit process.

### **6.2 Resolution 25-05: Pertaining to Acceptance & Approval of Fiscal Year 2024 Audit**

Patty Salazar motioned to approve the resolution. Suzanne Crawford seconded. Motion to approve Resolution 25-05 passed unanimously.

## **7. AI Policy; Kirsten Lang, SCFD**

Program Officer Kirsten Lang presented SCFD's Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy designed to ensure employees have a foundational understanding of the risks with AI adoption. The policy is combined with a risk assessment to evaluate AI tool trustworthiness. All assessments must be reviewed by Deputy Director Jessica Kato prior to adoption, and all AI tools must be reassessed annually or upon any changes to the tool's Privacy Policy, User Agreement or functionality.

After her presentation, Kirsten addressed Randy Perlis' question about copyrighted material by explaining that any usage of AI in art that supplants or replaces the work of

human artists is prohibited through this policy. Copyrighted material will either not be used or if used, credited appropriately.

Amos Kazzaz asked who is responsible for adoption of AI tools within the office. Kirsten stated that Deputy Director Kato is in charge of any tools used widely by SCFD. Individual employee's use of AI is managed by the employee with Jessica Kato's approval.

Vice-Chair Torres asked about SCFD's knowledge of AI use among funded partners. Kirsten shared that staff noticed the use of AI notetakers & AI augmented art among grantees and those examples contributed to the creation of the AI policy.

Teresa Valerio Parrot pointed out that many tools common in daily life use AI (Ex. Grammarly, Siri, and others). Kirsten explained that AI integration in these types of tools was considered when creating this policy.

Suzanne Crawford motioned to approve and adopt the AI policy. Dan Brown seconded. SCFD's AI policy was unanimously approved.

#### **8. Other Matters (new/old business)**

None

#### **9. Public Comment**

Jessy Clark from Swallow Hill Music announced "An Evening with Iron & Wine" on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at Swallow Hill. Tickets are currently available and will sell out quickly.

Cristal de Herrera from Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance thanked Deborah Jordy for her leadership and many contributions to Denver cultural community. She also voiced her support for Executive Director candidate, Andrea Albo.

#### **10. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters related to the position of Executive Director under C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(f)(I)**

Patty Salazar motioned to transition to Executive Session. Eva Henry seconded. With unanimous Board approval, the public was excused at 1:39 p.m. The public meeting resumed at 3:31 p.m.

#### **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.



Secretary

2025 Tier II board presentation list

August 28, 2025

1. **Art Students League of Denver** – Rachel Bayse, Executive Director
2. **Cal-Wood Education Center** – Rafael Salgado, Executive Director
3. **Central City Opera** – Megan Quilliam, Director of Development
4. **Cherry Arts** – Tara Brickell, Executive Director/CEO
5. **Children's Museum of Denver** – Mike Yankovich, President & CEO
6. **Colorado Chautauqua Association** – Shelly Benford, CEO
7. **Colorado Children's Chorale** – Meg Steitz, Executive Director
8. **Colorado Mountain Club** – Madeline Bachner Lane, CEO
9. **Dairy Arts Center** – Melissa Fathman, Executive Director
10. **Denver Film Society** – Keith Garcia, Sie Film Center Artistic Director
11. **Town of Parker Cultural Department** – Carrie Glassburn, Director

RESOLUTION NO. 25-06

**A Resolution of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District  
Pertaining to Organizations Qualifying for 2025 Tier II Funds**

WHEREAS, 34 organizations submitted annual applications by the June 11, 2025 deadline to the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District for 2025 funding as specified under C.R.S. §32-13-107(3)(b); and

WHEREAS, several organizations made presentations to the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District Board of Directors and each submitted information on the actual use of the 2024 SCFD funds and proposed use of the 2025 SCFD funds as required by the District; and

WHEREAS, each organization below has met statutory criteria for SCFD eligibility to receive the funds as described in C.R.S. §32-13-107(3)(b).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL FACILITIES DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. To approve the scheduled distribution of funds as set forth in the table below. This schedule of board approved, budgeted 2025 distributions is subject to modification based upon actual revenue collected.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
Art Students League of Denver	\$254,242.64
Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities	\$1,337,540.92
Cal Wood Education Center	\$174,008.84
Central City Opera	\$455,050.14
CherryArts	\$205,834.78
Children's Museum of Denver	\$1,810,896.04
City of Aurora Cultural Services Division	\$365,491.54
City of Lakewood Heritage, Culture & the Arts	\$486,430.11
City of Lone Tree Cultural Services Division	\$361,417.01
City of Longmont Museum	\$295,717.72
Clyfford Still Museum	\$392,432.10
Colorado Ballet	\$1,253,232.58
Colorado Chautauqua Association	\$1,242,144.18
Colorado Children's Chorale	\$212,402.68
Colorado Mountain Club	\$215,585.28
Colorado Music Festival & Center for Musical Arts	\$301,089.62
Colorado Railroad Museum	\$440,495.35
Colorado Symphony Association	\$1,703,944.66
Dairy Center for the Arts	\$280,554.79
Denver Film Society	\$638,971.65

eTown	\$183,110.65
Friends of Levitt Pavilion	\$215,929.89
Lighthouse Writers Workshop	\$237,032.31
Lion Global Foundation dba Mizel Museum	\$691,697.30
Mizel Arts and Culture Center	\$532,993.29
Museum of Contemporary Art Denver	\$488,355.89
Opera Colorado	\$399,344.61
Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory	\$594,476.14
Rocky Mountain Butterfly Consortium	\$1,486,453.89
South Suburban Cultural Department	\$554,014.63
Swallow Hill Music Association	\$794,716.05
Thorne Ecological Institute	\$248,607.22
Town of Parker Cultural Department	\$665,364.88
Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum	\$751,720.62
	<b>\$20,271,300.00</b>

Introduced and approved at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District, the 28<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

## Honoring Deborah Jordy

WHEREAS, today the SCFD Board of Directors wishes to honor Deborah Jordy for her outstanding dedication, leadership, and nine years of service to the SCFD as its Executive Director and to express appreciation for her efforts on behalf of the entire cultural community; and

WHEREAS, Deborah's background includes extensive work as an artist, arts advocate, and executive director, having led nonprofit arts, culture, and science organizations across Tier designations as well as the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts over the past 25 years; and

WHEREAS, Deborah has been an avid SCFD supporter since the district was created in the 1980s, having taken part in every campaign for the district's reauthorization over the past 35 years prior to beginning her position as Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, Deborah spearheaded the creation and implementation of numerous adopted Board policies leading to greater transparency and accountability to the public; and

WHEREAS, Deborah has diligently managed SCFD's budget and distribution of public funds and under her stewardship, SCFD has annually distributed more than \$80 million in project and general operating support; and

WHEREAS, the SCFD produced several public events during Deborah's tenure including the annual Engage-Empower-Connect Summit in partnership with Denver Botanic Gardens and the Collaborative of the SCFD, the annual SCFD Day at the Capitol, and the biennial SCFD Block Party in celebration of the region's cultural leaders; and

WHEREAS, Deborah worked with the SCFD staff and its Board of Directors through the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that SCFD funding continued to be available to cultural organizations, which were severely impacted by stay-at-home orders; and

WHEREAS, under Deborah's leadership the SCFD experienced many successes benefitting the public including: implementation of an organizational cultural equity statement made in partnership with The Equity Project, the transition of various County Cultural Council scoring criteria to a streamlined, universal scoring criteria to ensure equity in the district's grantmaking, a colorful and impactful rebrand of the organization, and the creation of a thorough and accessible stakeholder engagement process framework for the years leading up to SCFD's next reauthorization campaign; and

WHEREAS, Deborah has served the region on various boards and commissions including serving as a member of the Americans for the Arts Board of Trustees as its Officer and Treasurer, the Visit Denver Board of Trustees and its Government and Community Affairs Committee; the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation's Board of Trustees and including service as Chairwoman of its Governance & Nominating Committee; and by participating in the City and County of Denver Loretto Heights Theatre Task Force, among many other advisory groups benefitting the arts; and

WHEREAS, Deborah has emphasized the value of SCFD's vision of Culture For All throughout her tenure, ensuring that the district provides access for everyone to experience the region's arts, culture, and science programming; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District expresses its sincere thanks to Deborah Jordy for nearly a decade of dedicated leadership of the SCFD and profound service to the citizens of SCFD, the Denver metropolitan area and the State of Colorado.

Signed this 28th day of August 2025.

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Jacki Cooper Melmed  
Chair of the Board

