

SCFD, DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS AND
THE COLLABORATIVE OF THE SCFD PRESENT:

ENGAGE•EMPOWER•CONNECT 2025 SUMMIT



September 15, 2025 • 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

The Board of Directors of SCFD thanks the 2025 EEC Planning Committee and the following sponsors for playing an integral role in the success of today's summit.

DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS



2025 ENGAGE - EMPOWER - CONNECT PLANNING COMMITTEE

JENNIFER RILEY-CHETWYND

JANNETT MATUSIAK

BRIANNA FIRESTONE

DEBORAH JORDY

JESSICA KATO

DANA MANYOTHANE

EMMA MANTOOTH

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All programming will be held in Sturm Family Auditorium.

1:00 - 2:00 P.M. BOARD DEVELOPMENT

2:15 - 3:15 P.M. CREATIVE REVENUE STREAMS

3:15 - 3:45 P.M. COFFEE & NETWORKING BREAK

***Coffee will be available in Classroom 1**

3:45 - 5:00 P.M. FIRESIDE CHAT WITH ANDREA ALBO

5:00 - 6:00 P.M. HAPPY HOUR RECEPTION

A happy hour reception will conclude the summit in the Freyer-Newman Center atrium.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT



JANICE SINDEN | Denver Center for the Performing Arts

Janice Sinden joined the Denver Center for the Performing Arts as President & CEO in 2016. This fourth-generation Coloradan has had her eye on the future of her state for decades and now leads the 300 artisans and administrators of one of the nation's largest non-profit theatre organizations. While responsible for the overall management of the organization, Janice directly oversees the DCPA's programming lines – Broadway & Cabaret, Theatre Company, Off-Center, Education & Community Engagement, as well as Marketing & Sales, Development and the Board of Trustees.

Janice's diverse career has allowed her to support rich cultural experiences, access to education and community involvement. She previously served as Chief of Staff for Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock where she managed 60 appointees, 26 departments and the day-to-day complexities of running a major metropolitan city. She served as Executive Director of Colorado Concern, Manager of Community Relations / Corporate Communications for Sharp HealthCare in San Diego, and worked for U.S. Senator Wayne Allard.



RITA VALENTE-QUINN | Motus Theater

Rita Valente-Quinn is the Producing Executive Director of Motus Theater, where she is responsible for managing staff, operations, performance production, development, and the board to ensure the company continues offering innovative theatrical programming for years to come. She brings to Motus over 15 years of experience as an arts administrator and curator, leading and collaborating with professional teams around the world to bring theater and dance projects to diverse audiences. Her work has spanned rural villages in Portugal, city theaters and community centers in São Paulo, Brazil, and major U.S. museums and teaching institutions, including the Fowler Museum, the J. Paul Getty Museum, and UCLA's Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance.

Rita earned her Ph.D. in Culture and Performance Studies from UCLA. In 2023, she was awarded the Bonfils-Stanton Livingston Fellowship in recognition of her contributions to the nonprofit arts field and her commitment to advancing innovative approaches in theater.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT CONT.



ELAINE TORRES | CBS Colorado

Elaine Torres serves as the Director of Community & Strategic Partnerships at CBS Colorado. In this role, she oversees the station's community initiatives, strategic partnerships, and special events. Beyond her professional commitments, Elaine is deeply engaged in various boards and committees. She currently holds a position on the Board of Trustees for HCA HealthONE, the Latino Community Foundation of Colorado Board of Directors, and the International Women's Forum of Colorado Board of Directors. She recently served as a Trustee and Board Chair of the Bonfils Stanton Foundation. Her involvement extends to key roles on the Denver Zoo's Leadership Council and the Denver Art Museum's Marketing & Strategic Alliance Committee. Elaine has demonstrated her commitment to community service by contributing her expertise to additional boards such as the Mile High Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), the Women's Foundation of Colorado among numerous others.

Elaine's leadership journey includes being one of only twenty women selected nationwide to participate in the National Hispana Leadership Institute's 1999 program. A graduate of the 2001 Leadership Denver Program, Elaine has been recognized for her outstanding contributions, including being named a "Woman of Distinction" by the Girl Scouts of Colorado in 2009 and receiving the inaugural Latinas LEAD Influencer Award from the Latino Community Foundation of Colorado in 2018. Her achievements have continued to be celebrated, with her inclusion in the list of Latinas of Influence by Hispanic Lifestyle in 2021 and her recognition as one of the 2022 Top 25 Women in Business from the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce. In 2024, Elaine was celebrated as an Unsung Heroine by the Latinas First Foundation. Furthermore, in September 2022, she was awarded the Eric J. Duran Community Service Award by the Denver Public Library.

Elaine holds a master's degree in applied communications with an emphasis in Marketing and Public Relations from the University of Denver, a testament to her dedication to ongoing professional development. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Colorado at Boulder.



DEBORAH JORDY, MODERATOR | SCFD

Deborah Jordy is the senior advisor of SCFD and served as its Executive Director for nine years. A native of Colorado, Deborah Jordy has played a prominent role in the arts and cultural scene for over 40 years. Deborah has served on many local and national boards, is a past trustee of Americans for the Arts, Washington, DC and the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, Denver, Colorado and currently serves on the VISIT DENVER board of directors. Deborah is a frequent presenter to local, national and international audiences on topics in arts and culture and arts and economic development.

CREATIVE REVENUE STREAMS

DAWN FAY | Wonderbound



Dawn Fay joined Wonderbound in 2007 and has served as President of the organization since 2018. Her professional career spanned more than twenty years, including being named one of Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch." Dawn is a native of Memphis, Tennessee and received her professional training at North Carolina School of the Arts. She began her career at Ballet Oklahoma and went on to dance with Miami City Ballet, Royal Ballet of Flanders and Ballet Memphis. Dawn performed principal roles in classical works including Rudolf Nureyev's *Don Quixote*, Fleming Flindt's *La Sylphide*, as well as *Giselle*, *Cinderella* and *Coppelia*. She has danced contemporary works by Garrett Ammon, Trey McIntyre, Jiri Kylian, Choo San Goh, and Lila York, among others.

Dawn works closely with Garrett Ammon on the development and creation of his new work and facilitates production collaborations. As President, she is responsible for fundraising, board management, grant writing and costume design. Dawn is also deeply involved in Wonderbound's community programs.

KRISTEN KIDD | Friends of Dinosaur Ridge



Kristen serves as the Director of Marketing & Development at Friends of Dinosaur Ridge. She grew up a short distance away from Dinosaur Ridge, graduating from Bear Creek High School before going on to earn a B.S. in Journalism from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and an M.S. in Marketing from University of Denver. After spending years as a news writer and producer in radio and television, including CBS4 in Denver and KNBC Los Angeles,

Kristen took time off to chase her two sons around and volunteer in their schools. She enjoyed a return to writing as a guest columnist for The Denver Post, and as a PR consultant for various Colorado companies and nonprofits. She joined the team at Dinosaur Ridge in June 2021 and is excited to help tell the stories of this unique natural historical site.

CREATIVE REVENUE STREAMS



DAMON MCLEESE | Access Gallery

Damon is a visionary leader who has dedicated his career to promoting accessibility, inclusion, and innovation in the arts. As the Executive Director of Access Gallery for more than 25 years, Damon has been a driving force behind the organization's success in unlocking the creative power of people regardless of their background, ability, or experience.

Damon's collaborative approach bridges the gap between creativity and community, whether in a corporate setting, senior center or in the classroom. He creates projects that force us to look at creativity, ability, and disability in very different ways. Projects as diverse as a photography project for people who are blind, a street art project for people with Alzheimer's and dementia.

Damon's work has been recognized with numerous awards, including the 2019 Bonfils Stanton Arts and Society Award, the 2017 Governors Award for Leadership in the Arts, and the 2014 Mayor's Award for Innovation in the Arts. He has also been a speaker at the 2016 Tedx Mile High event and the 2022 Tedx CU event.

Damon is as comfortable working in a Special Education classroom as he is on a stage in front of thousands of people. He takes great joy in helping people discover or rediscover the creative genius that resides in us all. Damon's leadership, accessibility, and creativity have made a significant impact on the arts community.



JESSY CLARK, MODERATOR | SWALLOW HILL MUSIC

Jessy was born in Denver, and raised in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan before finding her way back to Denver after graduating from college. She has been in nonprofit organizations her entire career, with the last ten focusing specifically on operations.

She has been the CEO of Swallow Hill since January of 2024, and is leading the organization out of deficit years, while focusing on culture, revenue generation and organizational efficiencies. When Jessy isn't working, she plays golf, camps and travels extensively.

FIRESIDE CHAT



ANDREA ALBO | SCFD

Andrea is the new Executive Director of SCFD. She has more than 27 years of experience in public service leadership with a focus on leading organizations to develop policy, strengthen systems, and improve employee and community experiences. She has previously served as the Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Vice President of Culture and Strategy at Denver International Airport (DEN) as well as the Chief of Staff for the Denver Sheriff Department. She is a graduate of the University of Colorado at Denver, Harvard Kennedy School of State and Local Government, Latino Leadership Institute, and is a DEI Master Certified Practitioner. Additionally, she is active in supporting community impact efforts through her current appointments to the Metro Denver Economic Development Council Board of Governors, Biennial of the Americas Board of Directors, and Denver Preschool Program Board of Directors.



LISA KENNEDY | Freelance Journalist

Lisa Kennedy writes on popular culture, race, and gender among other topics – and has for more than two decades. From 2003 to 2015, she was film critic for the Denver Post. In 2012, she added theater critic to her beat. She's been published in the New York Times, Essence magazine, American Theatre, Newsday, CNN.com, AARP.com, and Variety. Before becoming a full-time writer she was an editor at the Village Voice, among other publications. She writes the blog "Little Wanderings" on LisaKennedyWriter.com. She is at work on "Icarus Ascending", an experimental memoir that unfolds during the AIDS crisis.



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