

SCFD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 25, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.
Filipino-American Community of Colorado (FACC)
Meeting Minutes

SCFD Board members present: Chairperson Jacki Cooper Melmed, Treasurer Suzanne Crawford, Secretary Dan Brown, Randy Perlis, Tamra Ward, Gino Greco, Patty Salazar, Teresa Valerio Parrot

SCFD Board members not present: Vice-Chair Councilperson Jamie Torres, Eva Henry, Amos Kazzaz

SCFD staff present: Executive Director Andrea Albo, 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

Chairperson Cooper Melmed called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m., followed by introductions. A quorum was present.

2. Welcome from Domingo Belen, Board President, FACC

3. Review and Approval of Agenda

Gino Greco motioned to approve the meeting agenda. Dan Brown seconded. Motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

4. Approval of August 28, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Tamra Ward motioned to approve the August Board meeting minutes. Randy Perlis seconded. Motion to approve the August Board meeting minutes passed unanimously.

5. Reports

5.1 Treasurer

Suzanne Crawford stated that the July 2025 SCFD sales and use tax revenue was \$7,712,385.68. The 2025 year-to-date (YTD) sales and use tax revenue is \$49,686,689.08. This compares to YTD 2024 sales and use tax revenue of \$48,893,063.97. The variance is \$793,625.11, a 1.62% increase in YTD 2025 over YTD 2024.

5.2 Chairperson

Jacki Cooper Melmed welcomed Andrea Albo to her first Board meeting as SCFD Executive Director. She also recognized Gino Greco for his final Board meeting. Gino first served on the Jefferson County Cultural Council before joining the SCFD Board in 2019. During his two terms, he was Board Chair in 2021 and 2022, helping SCFD navigate the post-pandemic challenges. We are grateful for his time and assistance with special committees and projects such as the planning session at the Red Cross office in January. Jacki presented Gino with a card and gift expressing SCFD's appreciation.

Chair Cooper Melmed also announced that the new Jefferson County Board representative, Allison (Alli) Scheck, will be welcomed at next month's meeting. Alli has extensive experience in local government, having worked in Lakewood, Wheat Ridge and in her current role as Deputy City Manager of Arvada.

5.3 Executive Director

Andrea Albo began her report by thanking the Board for a warm welcome. She then provided the following updates:

- The Tier III eligibility deadline was Wednesday, September 10th at 4:00 p.m. A total of 45 applications were received and Program Officers have begun processing them.
- This year's Engage Empower Connect Summit (EEC) was Monday, September 15th at 1:00 p.m. at Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG). This successful event had over 250 attendees. Thank you to Tamra Ward and Patty Salazar for attending.
- Thank you to Amos Kazzaz for serving on the RFP Stakeholder Process consultant review and selection committee with herself and Jessica Kato. Three of the six proposals will advance to the interview stage in early October. A final decision is expected by mid-October.
- Nominations are open for SCFD's 2026 Executive Board officers. Thank you to Suzanne Crawford for managing the recommendations. Any Board member interested in serving as an officer next year is invited to contact Suzanne.
- Thank you to Jessica Kato and accountant, Gloria Nedved, for their work on the 2026 proposed budget which will be presented today.
- Thanks also to the County Cultural Council leaders for their work and presentations today.
- Upcoming dates and milestones:
 - Colorado Business Committee for the Arts (CBCA) will roll out their Economic Activity Study of Metro Denver (EAS) on Thursday, November 6th at 9:30 a.m. at Denver Art Museum.
 - SCFD's community impact documentary, "The Art of Growth" will air on Rocky Mountain PBS Friday, October 17th at 8:00 p.m.

Executive Director Albo invited Emma Mantooth to present an annual report update. The 2024 annual report, "Unwavering Wonder", is live and available on the SCFD website. Emma also created a short ["sizzle reel"](#) to highlight the work of many funded partners.

6. Tier III 2025 Distribution

6.1 Tier III Summary & County Funding Plans

Dana Manyothane began her presentation with acknowledgement of the County Cultural Councils (CCC) for their tireless efforts, long hours and dedicated service to the residents of their communities. She then presented a statistical recap of the 2025 Tier III grant cycle. Highlights included:

- This is the second year that all CCCs have used a unified scoring rubric to make grant evaluation more consistent across all counties.
- Across the district, 277 organizations submitted grant applications this year, for a total of 635 requests (combined general operating support and project requests).

- Of the requests received, 618 grants were awarded.
- The total amount requested from all organizations exceeded the amount of funding available by \$6.192 million.

6.2 County Cultural Council Presentations (5 min. each)

Leaders from each CCC presented a summary of their grant review season. They specifically addressed the following:

- Why your work on the council is important to you
- Applicant spotlight(s) – interesting stories or programming from grantees
- The council’s funding priorities and guidelines and any planned changes for 2026

The order of presenters was as follows:

1. Jefferson County – Iris Gregg, Chair
2. Adams County – Aaron Vega, Vice-Chair
3. Arapahoe County – Stephanie Spriggs, Chair
4. Boulder County – Ed Castaldo, incoming Vice-Chair
5. Broomfield County – Chris Floyd, Chair
6. Denver County – Dana Manyothane for Vice-Chair Suzi Smith
7. Douglas County – Tony Sievert, Chair

6.3 Resolution 25-07: Pertaining to Distribution of 2025 Tier III Funds

Gino Greco motioned to approve the resolution. Patty Salazar seconded. Motion to approve Resolution 25-07 passed unanimously.

7. Proposed FY 2026 Budget presentation

Jessica Kato presented the 2026 proposed budget. A conservative sales and use tax revenue projection of \$86 million was used to prepare next year’s operating budget. Projected distributions are:

- Total District revenue = \$86,000,000
- Tier I projection = \$50,904,800
- Tier II projection = \$20,527,400
- Tier III projection = \$13,277,800

Other operating budget highlights included:

- Anticipation of lower interest income if Federal Reserve cuts continue
- Normal operating expenses budgeted to increase 10%
- Return of the summer Block Party and Community Awards
- Continuation of the Stakeholder Assessment Project

Final items to note:

- A surplus of \$9,047 is projected for FY 2026
- A six-month emergency reserve is fully funded
- The Election Cost Reserve is intact (up to \$2M)

At the conclusion of the presentation, Treasurer Suzanne Crawford shared that she has worked closely with Jessica and Gloria for many years and is consistently impressed with their thoughtful and conservative approach to create the best possible budget scenario for SCFD.

The proposed 2026 budget is available for public review on SCFD's website or by appointment in the SCFD office. The budget is expected to be adopted during the October Board meeting.

8. Other Matters (new/old business)

None

9. Public Comment

Gloria Nedved acknowledged the strong SCFD team that works together to manage the District. Chair Cooper Melmed thanked Gloria for her contributions to the team.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.



Secretary