



Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD)

Arapahoe County Commissioners Study Session

April 14, 2026

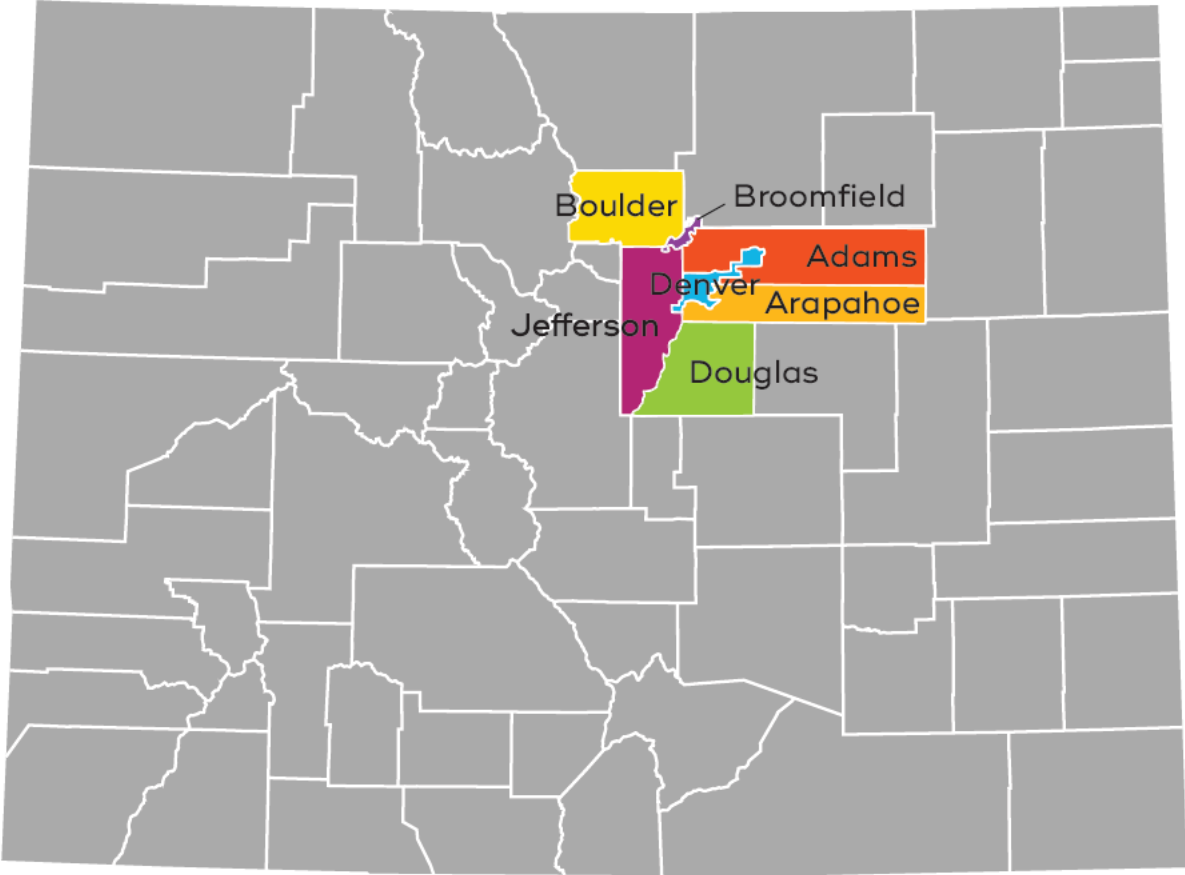
Andrea Albo, SCFD Executive Director
Randy Perlis, Arapahoe County Board Appointee
Tim Murphy, SCFD Senior Program Officer

SCFD Foundations

- The SCFD was created in the late 1980s, when the Denver metro area faced economic downturn.
- The district was developed in direct response to drop-offs in attendance and revenue at Denver's top cultural institutions.
- The initial intention was to fund only Denver-based attractions but was ultimately expanded to surrounding counties.



SCFD Counties



SCFD

SCFD

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Residents of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder,
Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and
Jefferson Counties



Board of Directors

Staff

County Cultural
Councils

Oversight:
Regional Organizations

Oversight:
Local Organizations

HOW SCFD WORKS

For every **\$10 spent** in the metro Denver area, **one penny** of the sales tax goes directly to arts, culture and science organizations of all sizes with more than **300** organizations funded



SCFD

SCFD Nitty-gritty

This money is then given out annually to qualifying organizations in three ways:



**(By statute)
Largest National
Organizations**



**(By statute and
qualifying) Regional
Organizations**

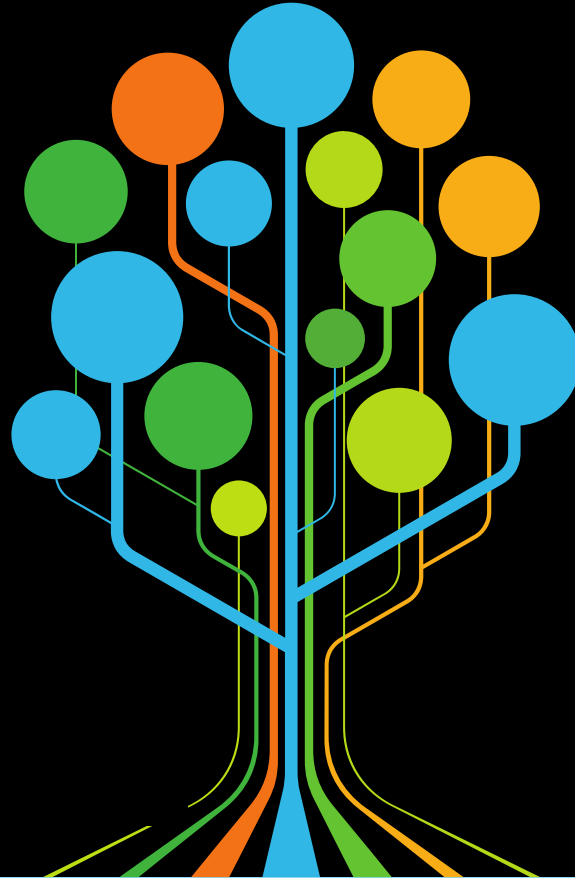


**(By county process)
Local Organizations**

SCFD All Grown Up

1989

- 6 counties
- 1.8M Population
- 134 Organizations
- \$14M distribution



2024

- 7 counties
- 3.2M Population
- 304 Organizations
- \$85M distribution

SCFD

14,466
creative
sector jobs

\$3.12 billion
generated in economic activity

3.9 million
FREE cultural
experiences

**Real
Impact**

304

culture and scientific
organizations funded



**4.57
million**
educational
experiences

14.52 million
engagements with funded partners

\$85 million
in grants

SCFD

#WeFundCulture #CultureForAll

2024 Impacts of Culture For All in Arapahoe County

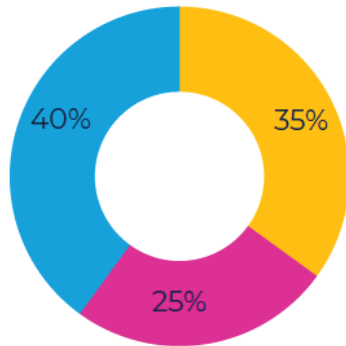
Arapahoe Attendance By Tier



Tier III



Tier II



Tier I

Key Impacts



2.08M resident engagements with grantees



All public schools in the county received cultural programming

Contribution to SCFD

\$16.4M



2025 Arapahoe-Based Funded Partners by District

District	Commissioner	# of Organizations
1	Carrie Warren-Gully	17
2	Jessica Campbell	5
3	Jeff Baker	2
4	Leslie Summey	6
5	Rhonda Fields	4

2024 Arapahoe County Funding

By the Numbers:

- \$4.2M in SCFD funding distributed to Arapahoe County
- 735,272 Arapahoe County residents served by Tier I organizations
- 36 Tier I, II and III organizations based in county

2024 Arapahoe County Tier I and II Funding (4)

Tier I:

Plains Conservation Center (Aurora) – educational programming managed by Denver Botanic Gardens

Tier II:

City of Aurora Cultural Services Division
Opera Colorado
Wings Over the Rockies: Exploration of Flight

2024 Arapahoe County Tier III Funding (32)

Tier III:

Arapahoe Philharmonic
Aurora Singers
Aurora Symphony Orchestra
Cherry Creek Chorale
City of Aurora Open Space and Natural Resources
City of Englewood Cultural Division
Colorado Bach Ensemble
Colorado Korean Chorus
David Taylor's Zikr Dance Ensemble
Denver Bronze
Downtown Aurora Visual Arts
Englewood Arts
Feel the Beat Corp
Grand Design
Greenwood Village Arts and Humanities Council
Heritage Fine Arts Guild of Arapahoe County

Historic Englewood
Kantorei
Littleton Community Music Association
Littleton Fine Arts Guild (Depot Art Gallery)
Littleton Symphony Orchestra
Littleton Town Hall Arts Center
Metropolitan Choral Festival
Mudra Dance Studio
Museum of Outdoor Arts
Philippine-American Society of Colorado
Roxborough Arts Council
Smithtonians
South Suburban Nature Programs
Vintage Theatre
Voices West
Young Voices of Colorado

Spotlight: Museum of Outdoor Arts' Cabinet of Curiosities



Public Support



1988 – Passed at 75% of the vote

1994 – Passed at 57% of the vote

2004 – Passed at 65.7% of the vote

2016 – Passed at 63% of the vote

2028 – Will be on ballot to reauthorize

Road to 2028 Reauthorization

Goals:

- Create an inclusive, transparent process for SCFD's stakeholders to facilitate equitable decision-making and outcomes
- Establish the foundation and structure for the next era of the SCFD that recognizes the profound evolution of society and the arts

Stakeholder Engagement Process (2026-2027)
1. Research and Landscape Analysis
2. District-Wide Listening Tour
3. Initial Proposal Development
4. Stakeholder Consensus Building
5. Final Proposal

Road to 2028 Reauthorization

Phase 1: Research & Landscape Analysis

- Onboarding
- Analysis of internal financial and structural data
- Informational interviews with community members
- Stakeholder mapping

Phase 2: District-Wide Listening Tour

- Listening tour (in person and virtual opportunities)
- Questionnaire for funded partners
- Formation of stakeholder advisory group
- Presentation on learnings

Road to 2028 Reauthorization

Phase 3: Initial Proposal Development

- Create menu of conceptual changes to statute
- Fiscal analysis and forecasting
- Proposal development and dissemination

Phase 4: Stakeholder Consensus Building

- Work sessions with Stakeholder Advisory Group
- Refine proposal and track consensus
- Legislative engagement

Phase 5: Final Proposal and Board Action

- Proposal finalization
- Board vote on proposal
- Legislative engagement

Reauthorization Timeline

2025 - Hire Consultants

RFP process to hire consultants with deep roots in metro area, public relations, and community building

2027 - Phases 3 through 5

Proposal Development & Census Building. Based on feedback from process, a final proposal will be presented to SCFD Board.

2028 - Legislative Process

Bill introduced to General Assembly with sponsors. Passage through both House & Senate.

2024 - Framework

SCFD Board approved a stakeholder assessment process & voted on 2028 as the year to go back to the voters.

2026 - Phase 1 & 2

Landscape analysis & in-depth district wide listening tour

2027 - Final Decisions

SCFD Board votes on recommended changes to statute & begins working with bill drafter

2028 - Campaign & Election

Public campaign (CATZ) culminates with district vote in November

Arapahoe County Focus Points

- Growth of arts/culture ecosystem
- Collaborative programs across tiers for residents
- Increased use of data to monitor impact
- More on the horizon...

Call To Action

Check out our 2024 Annual Report!



Check out CBCA's EAS Study



Thank you!

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