

Rex Morgan Speech

Thank you. I want to first recognize the other nominees. I am honored to be a part of such a prestigious group and congratulate each of you on your nomination. I also want to thank the SCFD Board for this recognition. Receiving the Rex Morgan Award is a validation of all the years I have dedicated to community service.

I have had the privilege to serve many organizations. Each one has presented new opportunities and challenges. Community activism is my passion and it is what I do best. My family will readily tell you that a huge part of their lives has been spent watching Mom go off to meetings, dragging them to events, and enlisting them in a wide variety of projects. To my husband Ray and my daughters Carry and Chrissy thank you for your support and patience.

When Rex Morgan and the other founding mothers and fathers created the SCFD they ingeniously chose to develop a three tier system to distribute the funds. Now this was great political strategy. But the creation of Tier III was also an amazing vehicle for reaching down into the community to provide support to small cultural and scientific organizations while also providing the citizens in the counties comprising SCFD access to the arts and sciences.

Years ago there was a group in Denver called the Sacred Thirty-six. A prestigious group of high society which effectively barred from membership a community activist named Margaret Tobin Brown. Today, we have a group I call the Busy 65. It is composed of the 65 members of the 7 county cultural councils, a group of community activists who would welcome Mrs. Brown. Members of the Busy 65 have chosen to add serving on a SCFD county cultural council to their list of community involvement. It is this group that I have been intimately involved with for the past 16 years, and it is this group which shares the Rex Morgan Award with me, particularly those on the Arapahoe County Cultural Council.

The Busy 65 is the engine that drives Tier III. The combined work of the 7 cultural councils accounts for the distribution of millions of dollars in SCFD funds each year. Think of the total dollars that have been distributed over the last 20+ years! Why do we do it? For some reason the Busy 65 enjoys spending countless hours going to meetings and workshops, reading tons of grants, and conducting dozens of interviews. But we also know that our work supports all those small SCFD organizations that are passionate about what they do and benefits the lives of thousands of citizens in the SCFD. For the overriding goal of community activism is to make each one of our communities a better place to live.

It is an honor to be recognized by the SCFD for the community work I have done over the past 30 years. But it is the Busy 65 – all those who have served or are serving on a county cultural council - that also deserves your recognition for their dedication and service to SCFD. Please stand if you are currently, or have been, a member of a county cultural council. It has been my pleasure to serve SCFD with you. Rex Morgan would be proud of all of us and I am proud to share the Rex Morgan award with all of you. Thank you.