

Thank you

- I am pleased, honored and humbled to accept this award and to join past recipients who I have long admired and respected.
- A very special thanks to the SCFD Board for selecting me
- And an enormous salute to all of this year's nominees each of whom have made incredible contributions to the metro Denver scientific and cultural community

- Thank you to those who nominated me and supported my nomination.
- And, of course, thank you to my extended family and friends for always supporting me and being here this evening

Just to give you a little perspective on my life in the arts:

- Many years ago...when I was in fourth grade, I remember so distinctly being in art class and learning about beautiful tapestries with unicorns in them – and being asked to draw the unicorn.
 - When the teacher looked at my unicorn, she told me I would never be an artist
 - and so ended any dreams I may have had to pursue an artistic career
- But I thought then – and know for sure now - that no one could ever tell me I did not clap well- or couldn't clap for all those artists, dancers, musicians, actors, writers and other creative people who I would meet throughout my life
- And what a gift to me that throughout my years in Denver, I have had the opportunity to get to know the cultural community and introduce it to the larger community in so many ways.

When I began as executive director of Colorado Business Committee for the Arts in the mid-80's, I was delighted and challenged as to how to encourage business support for the arts throughout the state

- With a board of directors chaired by John Madden, I had the opportunity to meet a wide range of business people

and many of the cultural leaders who were working so hard to make the arts succeed here

- one of many fond memories was an event we did – Dinner, Dialogue and Discovery where we actually matched up people from the business community with individuals from the arts community who they might be interested in talking to
 - That evening the event was at Cleo Parker Robinson's then brand new home theatre, Shorter AME Church in Five Points
 - we were the first event there – the dancers were going to dance and we would dine and talk.
 - And the evening was amazing – here were individual business people each matched with an arts person and talking about writing or dancing or playing an instrument
 - I heard about the evening forever from our business people – and was blown away by the way the artists who were there were able to share their experiences and expertise and really educate about how they made and did their arts

- It was while I was at CBCA – and officing out south in Greenwood Village in John Madden's office that Rex Morgan and his group developed the SCFD concept
 - At the time John was active with the Denver Chamber of Commerce and I had the opportunity to explain the SCFD concept to him.
 - he went on to raise it with the Denver Chamber and so began part of the business support of SCFD

When SCFD passed, it was an enormous time for celebration among all the counties and the cultural organizations

- and then everyone had to figure out how to implement it
 - Floyd Ciruli, Gully Stanford and the original members of the SCFD board and county cultural councils had their hands full!

- I was excited and challenged to be appointed early on to the Denver County Cultural Council which would distribute the monies to the smaller Denver organizations (Tier III)
 - We worked on developing the application, the criteria for scoring the grants and a system of visiting each organization
 - The make-up of the council ranged from artists to doctors to professors to political types and no two of us saw things exactly the same way- a phenomenal and diverse group of people who I respect and admire to this day
 - It was a fascinating and rewarding experience even as we figured out how to help individuals like Lucy Walker – a woman with a theatre company who could never quite find her financials

As I reflect back to those early years of SCFD, what was so quickly noticeable were

- The growth in the number and quality of the smaller organizations
- The successful learning curve for all of the organizations in how to manage themselves and be responsive to the public
- The development of the concept of collaboration among the organizations- big and small - and across the counties
- The stability the new funds were bringing all throughout the cultural community

It was an exciting time for all of us

- And I had great admiration for the small staff and trusty board members of SCFD who oversaw the collection and distribution of a very large pot of money in a way which allowed the organizations to do what they did best by providing operating funds vs project funds – a great and necessary revenue for everyone

- When I landed at the Denver Art Museum in the mid- 90's, I had the opportunity to get to know the leaders of the larger organizations – incredibly smart, thoughtful people who cared deeply about their own institutions and the cultural community as a whole.
- And during my years at the museum – I recall one of many special moments – a free day (thanks to SCFD) when we were just finishing a very successful Dia del Ninos, Day of the Children – one child was standing by the door on her way out with her parents and grand parents and aunts and friends and started crying
 - o and everyone was trying to find out why
 - o when we finally did – she didn't want to leave the museum
 - o she wanted to stay longer
 - o it was the best!

Over the years I have watched the scientific and cultural organizations

- o stand up for arts in education (both in the establishment of the Denver School of the Arts and endless work on arts standards and arts programs in the schools throughout the metro Denver area)
- o learn to work with their local political leaders(to recognize the importance of the arts to the success of that community),
- o take a place at the table with respect to tourism, economic development and creative communities
- o I applaud all of you in the arts and sciences who most likely started out thinking if you could sing or dance or write or educate that would be enough – but as the creative people you are, you have reinvented yourselves and your organizations to respond to current conditions
- o We, as the citizens of metro Denver, have been the beneficiaries

In closing, I just want to say

- How fortunate we are to have Scientific and Cultural Facilities District in this community
- How fortunate we are to have the diverse and excellent organizations that provide us quality experiences throughout the metro Denver area
- And how fortunate we are to have the individuals who bring their talent and expertise to these organizations

We must continue to work together as a united group in making the scientific and cultural community a significant player – with respect to education, economic development, tourism, health and human welfare as well as creative communities

SCFD has given all of the metro Denver cultural organizations opportunities to grow and flourish

- and with their broadened perspectives, they have helped to make metro Denver the cultural center of the Rocky Mt. West

May we all continue to work together, nurture and support each other and help grow the unique image of metro Denver as a dynamic, creative place to live and work.

When the National Endowment for the Arts was signed into law, President Lyndon Johnson said

“Art is a nation’s most precious heritage. For it is in our works of art that we reveal to ourselves and to others the inner vision which guides us as a nation. And where there is no vision, the people perish.”

Thank you.