

BEARFACTS

January 2004



News from Citizens for Arts to Zoo

SCFD serves metro region

The Scientific and Cultural Facilities District is a voter-approved special district in the seven-county metro area (Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson). The District collects one penny on every \$10 purchase to fund more than 300 arts and cultural organizations. This rare and valuable resource helps keep admission prices low, and increases access to educational programming, free days and cultural programs that, without public funding, would be inaccessible to many residents.



PROGRAMS

EDUCATION



Shawn Mitchell, Norma Anderson sponsor reauthorization legislation

The SCFD is due for reauthorization in November 2004; current legislation sunsets in 2006. The Colorado General Assembly will be asked to approve authorizing legislation for voter approval.

SCFD reauthorization legislation will be carried by Rep. Shawn Mitchell, R-Broomfield, and Sen. Norma Anderson, R-Lakewood. In sponsoring SCFD legislation, Mitchell said "As a fiscal conservative, I'm excited to support a treasured program whose costs are modest and benefits enormous." Added Anderson, "SCFD-funded organizations not only enrich our lives and minds, they are a powerful economic engine."

SCFD support growing daily

For nearly two years, the SCFD conducted public forums, worked with county cultural councils and local public officials and gathered public input to improve the operation of the district. The new bill is a carefully crafted compromise that responds to the growing SCFD and anticipates its needs.

Already, dozens of resolutions of support have been logged from groups across the metro area, including government boards and councils, arts groups, chambers and individual businesses. In addition, newspaper and media endorsements have begun to highlight the benefits of the SCFD and the changes to the legislation that have strengthened this unique and valuable resource.



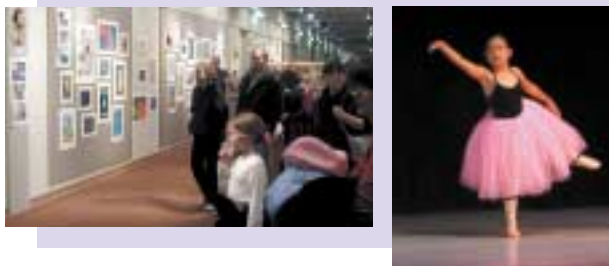
EVENTS



FACILITIES

A few of the dozens of resolutions of support already on record...

- Colorado Business Committee for the Arts
- Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce
- Southeast Business Partnership
- Denver Zoo
- Boulder County Commissioners
- Hudson Gardens
- Children's Museum
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Historic Denver
- Lakewood Heritage, Culture & the Arts
- Denver Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Arts for Colorado



SCFD Structure

The District is divided into three tiers of organizations according to budget and paid attendance. The tiers ensure funding for all sizes of cultural organizations. The District dedicates funding to regional institutions that serve the widest audiences through the most popular attractions. Smaller organizations are funded through county-based cultural councils.

Tier I

Currently the four largest regional institutions: Zoo, Museum of Nature and Science, Botanic Gardens, Art Museum

proposed: adding Denver Center for the Performing Arts

current: 4 institutions, 59% share
proposed: 5 institutions, 65.5% share (64% above \$38 million collected)

Tier II

19 mid-size organizations with local and regional audiences, such as the Arvada Center, Hudson Gardens, Lakewood Heritage Center, Butterfly Pavilion, Colorado Chautauqua and Children's Museum

current: 28% share
proposed: 21% share (22% above \$38 million)

Tier III

280+ local organizations, including small theaters, orchestras, art centers and natural history, cultural history and community groups

current: 13% share
proposed: 13.5% share (14% above \$38 million)

SCFD Facts

- reauthorization is NOT a tax increase
- funded by one-tenth of a cent sales tax (penny on \$10 purchase)
- 9 million visitors in 2002
- more than 1 billion in economic impact from the arts
- more than 300 organizations supported
- less than 1% for administration
- \$139 million in cultural tourism
- 2 million schoolchildren served every year (mostly free)
- more than 100 free days per year

Reauthorization: Changes respond to growing District

The SCFD Board unanimously approved several key changes to the authorizing legislation.

SCFD due for reauthorization in 2004

Improve operation

Move the Denver Center for the Performing Arts into Tier I, allowing it to operate with organizations more compatible in budget and attendance.

Refine funding

Alter the base formula to provide additional revenue to Tiers II and III. Change Tier I formula to fund entrance of DCPA into Tier I.

Raise standards

Strengthen eligibility standards by requiring more years of operation in Tier II (up from 2 years to 5) and Tier III (up from 0 years to 3) and requiring IRS nonprofit designation for Tier III.

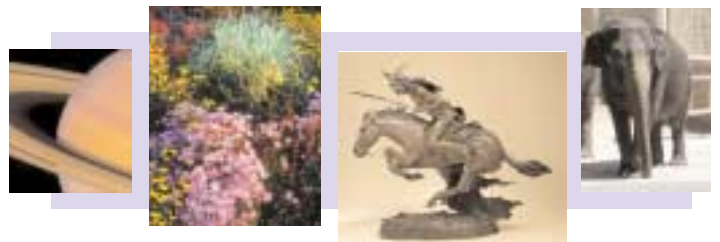
Change boundaries

Expand to follow housing and retail patterns of residents who benefit from SCFD.

Politically Speaking Voters support SCFD

The SCFD has earned overwhelming approval twice from the Colorado General Assembly and three times from voters.

1988	Authorization:	74% Yes
1994	Reauthorization:	57% Yes
1995	TABOR Override:	58% Yes



The SCFD has done a good job of restructuring itself and deserves a thumbs-up from lawmakers and voters.

— Rocky Mountain News editorial
Nov. 30, 2003



Bear Facts is sponsored by Citizens for Arts to Zoo. For more information, contact CATZ at 303.399.3086.