



**2016  
DENVER COUNTY CULTURAL COUNCIL  
APPLICATION**

Name RICARD (RICK) ACOSTA

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Occupation/Employer Semi-retired (management consulting) & Philanthropic Work

Highest Level of Education or Degree Earned: MBA (Operations Research) Year completed 1978

Ethnicity: Hispanic

Are you a resident of the City and County of Denver? Yes XXXX No \_\_\_\_\_

Are you at least 21 years of age? Yes XXXX No \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a current board member or paid staff member of any organization applying for Tier III funding? Yes XXXX No \_\_\_\_\_

**Will resign immediately upon acceptance of DCCC approval**

Are you willing to disclose any conflict of interest? Yes XXXX No \_\_\_\_\_

1) **QUALIFICATIONS:** What is your experience with arts, cultural, scientific or historical organizations? Describe the nature of your involvement, including the organization(s) and time period(s).

I have a broad and deep experience and understanding of Denver's arts and cultural organizations; here is a synopsis:

**Arts Affinity Group (2012-Current):** I am a founding member and chairman of AAG, a giving circle of The Denver Foundation. We solicit and provide grants for local nonprofit arts organizations that are innovative and focused on learning through the arts. A call for proposals is made in the summer and our Grant Making Committee reviews all applications, culling them for a final set. To determine the grants, we host an annual "Colorado Art Tank" where the grant finalists present their proposal before a voting audience. The Art Tank culminates in the awarding of grants that evening. As institutional partners, AAG is honored to have Bonfils-Stanton Foundation and Colorado Creative Industries.

**Curious Theatre Company (2006-Current):** As trustee at Curious Theatre Company – where I will immediately resign should the DCCC approve my participation in the Council – I have served as past President and Vice President. I have lead several committees at Curious, including the Executive, Finance, Marketing, Special Events, and Development efforts.

**Leadership Denver (2005):** In 2005 I graduated from the Denver Chamber of Commerce's *Leadership Denver* class. This in-depth, yearlong program provided me with a thorough understanding and appreciation of our community's public initiatives and environment. Acted as a community executive – in major corporate, elected, and nonprofit leadership roles – presented critical issues facing Denver and solutions to our community problems. The spectrum of discussions included arts and culture, crime and justice, health care, and our economic state. I also traveled to other cities as part of the Chamber's *Leadership Exchange* program to understand how other metropolitan areas manage their civic homes.

Through my board work, I have extensive experience evaluating and managing grants to nonprofits. This includes defining the scope of requests for proposals (RFPs), creating procedures for the grant making body to fairly evaluate the RFPs, ranking the screened applications, managing the final selection procedures, and notifying the accepted (and rejected) applicants. Part of my credo for grant making is following-up with the nonprofits to understand and track the use and results of the grants.

As an audience member and participant in Denver's arts and cultural environment, I am a current or prior member and/or subscriber to these organizations (partial list; dates approximate):

- Arts Affinity Group (2012-2016)
- Curious Theatre Company (2006—2016)
- Denver Center Theatre Company (charter subscriber 1978-2016)
- Su Teatro (2007-2010)
- MCA (2008-2016)
- Denver Art Museum (1983-2016)
- History Colorado Center (2013-2015)
- Clyfford Still Museum (2011-2016)
- Denver Zoo (1986-1998)
- Denver Museum of Nature & Science (1986-1998)
- Denver Botanic Gardens (204-2016)
- Friends of Chamber Music (2011-2016)
- KUVO (2012)
- Redline (2014-2016)
- East High School Music Program (2000-2016)
- Others – Buntport, PACE, Edge, Cleo Robinson, Aurora Fox, Shadow, Creede Rep, Arvada Center

My attendance to events and productions in our city is wide, varied, and persistent.

2) EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS: Briefly describe your education and the knowledge and skills you would bring to the DCCC.

From the University of Denver, I have a Masters of Business Administration with a concentration in Operations Research. My undergraduate degree is in Statistics. This university experience brings a deep and focused energy for analysis, critical thinking, and desire for moving projects and initiatives forward.

The organizations I have worked for, both nonprofit and for-profit, have taught me the value of teamwork, adherence to deadlines, professional communication skills (public speaking, written, and oral), and being accountable for results.

In the public arena, I have experience presenting good and bad news to an audience, offering proposals for elected officials to consider in their policy decisions, and working with the press.

As an executive in many organizations, I have wide and deep skills in annual and multi-year budgeting, tracking results, taking corrective actions, building teams, effective marketing,

complaint financial operations, productive organizational design, efficient operations management, and developing public policies. These organizations include Liberty Media, International Channel Networks, AZN Television, AT&T Broadband, MCI West, and US West.

Other experiences that add to my abilities include several board and management council positions, teaching as part of several university faculties (University of Denver, CU-Denver, Loretta Heights), and event organization work.

3) VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: List and briefly describe your community and volunteer activities.

Arts Affinity Group – Giving circle of The Denver Foundation; award grants to innovative 501(c)3 arts organizations. (Chairman)

Curious Theatre Company – Award-winning Company that brings thought provoking new work to the Denver stage. (Trustee, former officer)

Social Venture Partners – Donor-advised fund that supports nonprofits in Denver with grants, consultative services, and professional development. (Prior chairman and member)

Denver Chamber of Commerce Leadership Foundation – Manages Leadership Denver to develop civic leaders in our community. (Board member)

College Summit Colorado – Writing coach for underprivileged high school students desiring college admission. (Volunteer)

Goodwill's Youth Career Development Program – Training interviewing skills, mock college admission panels, résumé writing, and portfolio evaluations. (Volunteer)

A critical part of my involvement has been promoting the mission of my organizations and recruiting new members to join and participate.

4) REFERENCES: List the name, phone number, and affiliation of 2 organizations/individuals with which you have worked in any of your community involvements in the past 5 years.

Name	Title	TN	Suggested Topic(s)
The Denver Foundation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barbara Berv (may be on vacation)</li> <li>Sarah Harrison</li> <li>Christiano Sosa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VP of Philanthropic Services</li> <li>Deputy VP of Philanthropic Services</li> <li>Director of Capacity Building &amp; Collective Philanthropy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(303) 996-6484</li> <li>(303) 996-6486</li> <li>(720) 974-2606</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leadership skills</li> <li>Implementing strategies</li> <li>Leading Arts Affinity Group &amp; grant making</li> </ul>
Kent Rice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive Director, Denver Arts &amp; Venues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(720) 865-4202</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall management skills and talents; community involvement</li> </ul>
Jeremy Shamos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Philanthropist</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(303) 399-4720</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board management &amp; leadership</li> </ul>
Gary Steuer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President &amp; CEO, Bonfils-Stanton Foundation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(303) 825-3774</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arts Affinity Group strategic planning and coordination</li> </ul>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Please answer the questions stated above even if you attach a bio. [See attachment]
- If not selected for the DCCC would you be willing to serve on another volunteer panel? Yes
- Is there anything that would adversely affect public confidence in your appointment? If yes, please explain.

Please submit applications to Tariana Navas-Nieves, Director, Cultural Affairs at [Tariana.Navas@denvergov.org](mailto:Tariana.Navas@denvergov.org)

## BIO

### **Ricard (Rick) Acosta**

Rick Acosta has more than 30 years experience as an entertainment and communications professional – for both consumer and commercial clients. His nonprofit participation and leadership includes the Arts Affinity Group, Curious Theatre Company, Leadership Denver, Social Venture Partners-International (and Denver), The Denver Foundation, and the Denver Chamber of Commerce Leadership Foundation. In the for-profit realm, he has worked for Liberty Media, AZN Television, International Channel, Canales ñ, and AT&T Broadband. He has lead a consulting firm specializing in bringing strategies to life and moving organizations into successful futures. He has an MBA in Operations Research from the University of Denver and an undergraduate degree in Statistics. An ex-hockey player, longtime avid skier, and budding jazz bass player, he is the proud poppa of two marvelous children.

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