

Mayoral Appointments/reappointments to the Commission on Cultural Affairs

To approve the Mayoral appointments and reappointments of the following individuals to the Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs:

Dudley “Van” Schoales, Denver (M)(C)(CD10), president A+Colorado Non-Profit Development Center, for a term expiring August 31, 2023, reappointed;

Heather Nielsen, Denver (F)(C)(CD7), Director of Learning and Community Engagement at the Denver Art Museum, for a term expiring August 31, 2024, and to serve as co-chair, reappointed;

Leesly Leon, Denver (F)(LX)(CD9), communications director at DEDO for a term expiring August 31, 2024, reappointed;

Michael McClung, Denver (M)(C)(CD10), gallery director at Michael Warren Contemporary – Gallery, for a term expiring August 31, 2024, reappointed;

Christopher Zacher, Denver (M)(C)(CD8), executive director at Levitt Pavilion Denver, for a term expiring August 31, 2024, appointed;

Aisha Ahmad-Post, Englewood (F)(Two or More Races), executive director at Newman Center for Performing Arts, for a term expiring August 31, 2024, appointed;

Ricard Acosta, Denver (M)(H)(CD8), retired, for a term expiring August 31, 2024, appointed;

Dan Manzanares, Denver (M)(H)(CD8), manager University of Denver Prison Arts Initiative, for a term expiring August 31, 2024, appointed;

Alfredo Reyes, Denver (M)(H)(CD4), executive director Latino Cultural Arts Center, for a term expiring August 31, 2024, appointed;

Sarah Hogan, Denver (F)(C)(CD2) principal at Barefoot Public Relations, for a term expiring August 31, 2024, appointed.

Purpose/Scope of the Board: RMC 28-20

The Commission is responsible for providing advice and input to the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs on issues relating to art and cultural affairs.

Member Qualifications: The Commission on Cultural Affairs seeks candidates that represent Denver’s diverse community and is specifically looks for leaders who either live in Denver, or who are immersed in the Denver community with the following backgrounds and experience:

- Working artists, arts administrators, creative entrepreneurs, etc.
- Strategic Planning & Implementation
- Nonprofit Management
- Real Estate & Built Environment
- Philanthropy
- Board Development & Leadership
- Marketing & Communication

- Diversity, Equity & Inclusiveness

Selection Process and why these applicants were chosen: following submittal of applications and surveys are reviewed and scored by the Director of Arts & Venues, and both co-chairs. Interviews are scheduled and once a decision has been made on the best candidates who not only offer expertise and City Council district representation but also bring value to the Commission based on their expertise and knowledge.

Current Board Makeup –

Alexis Moore, Denver (F)(C)(CD1) rep. urban planner, appt.

Eriko Tsogo, Denver (F)(Asian),CD4), rep. artist/creative director, appt.

Viniyanka Prasad, Denver (F)(Asian)(CD10), ED/Storytelling Sanctuary, appt.

Stephanie Tavares-Rance, Aurora, (F)(AA) rep. strategic partnerships, marketing, events and public relations, appt.

Beth Mosenthal, Denver(F)(C)(CD6), rep. architect, reappt.

Kevin Smith, Denver (M)(C)(CD9) rep. Denver Film Society, appt.

David Conger, Denver (M)(C)(CD10), rep. public art and architecture, appt.

Tess Vigil, Denver (F)(H)(CD8) rep. DPS, reappt.

FloraJane DiRienzo, Denver (F)(C)(CD7), rep. DCPA, reappt. **Co-Chair**

Jami Duffy, Denver (F)(C)(CD9) rep. youth, reappt.

Ryan Foo, Denver (M)(Asian (CD9) rep. theatre, appt.

Lisa Kennedy, Denver (F)(C)(CD2), rep. arts journalism, appt.

Stephen Brackett, Denver (M)(AA)CD9), rep. musician and educator, reappt.

Damon McLeese, Denver (M)(C)(CD9) rep. artists with disabilities, appt.

Courtney Stell, Denver(F)(C)(CD3), rep. contemporary arts, appt.

Dudley “Van” Schoales, Denver(M)(C)(CD10), rep. president A+1 Colo., reappt.

Heather Nielsen, Denver (F)(C)(CD7), DMA, reappt. **Co-chair**

Leesly Leon, Denver (F)(LX)(CD9) rep. communication, reappt.

Michael McClung, Denver (M)(C)(CD10), rep. arts, reappt.

Christopher Zacher, Denver (M)(C)(CD8), rep. ED Levitt Pavilion, appt.

Aisha Ahmad-Post, Englewood (F)(Two Races)(CDNA), rep. ED Newman Center, appt.

Ricardo Acosta, Denver (M)(H) (CD8) rep. retired, appt.

Dan Manzanares, Denver (M)(H)(CD8) rep. Comm. Manager, DU Prison Arts Initiative, appt.

Alfredo Reyes, Denver (M)(H)(CD4) rep. ED Latino Cultural Arts Center, appt.

Sarah Hogan, Denver (F)(C)(CD2)rep. Principal Bearfoot PR, appt

Additional Information: None.