



Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD)

Denver City Council Parks, Arts and Culture
Committee Presentation

February 3, 2026

Presented By:
Andrea Albo, Executive Director

Dana Manyothane, Program Officer

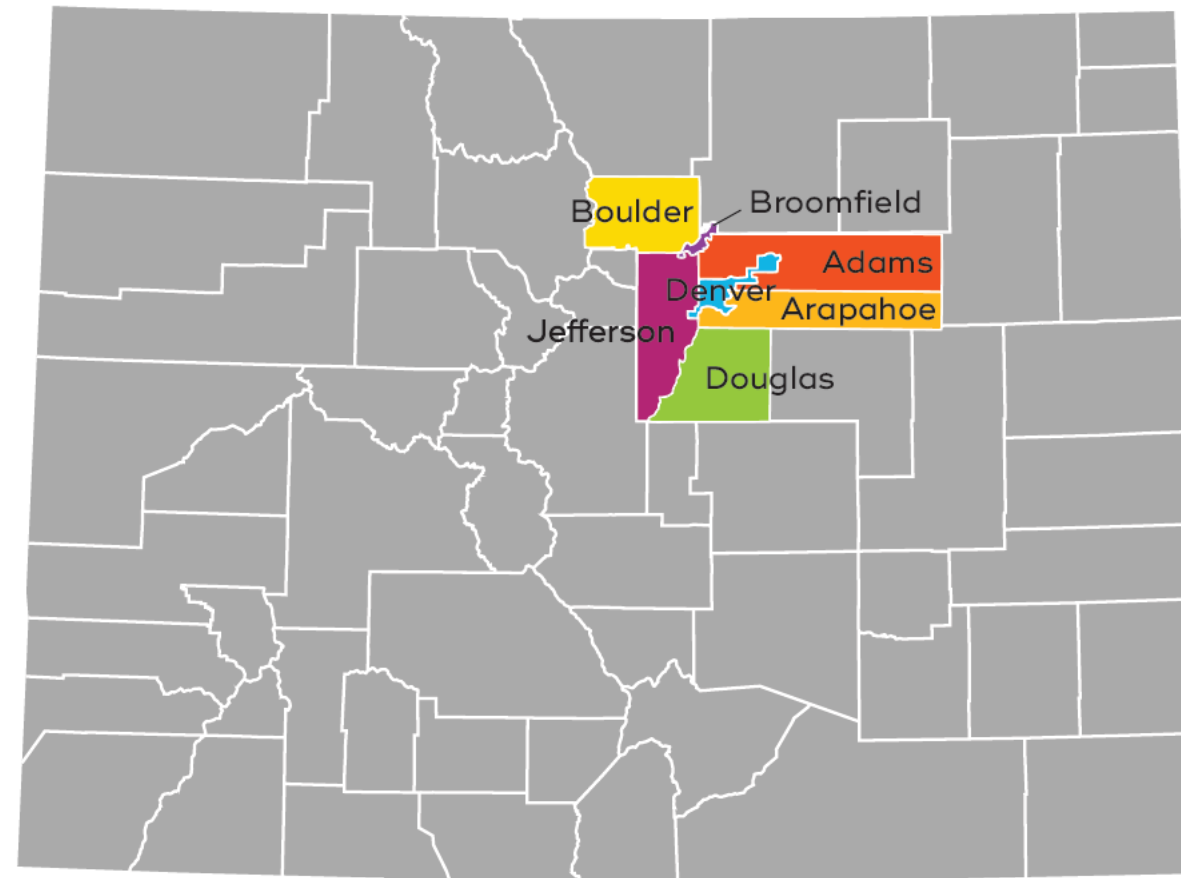
Tariana Navas-Nieves, Deputy Executive Director
of Denver Arts & Venues

SCFD Foundations

- The SCFD was created in the late 1980s, when the Denver metro area faced economic downturn.
- The district was developed in direct response to drop-offs in attendance and revenue at Denver's top cultural institutions.
- The initial intention was to fund only Denver-based attractions but was ultimately expanded to surrounding counties.

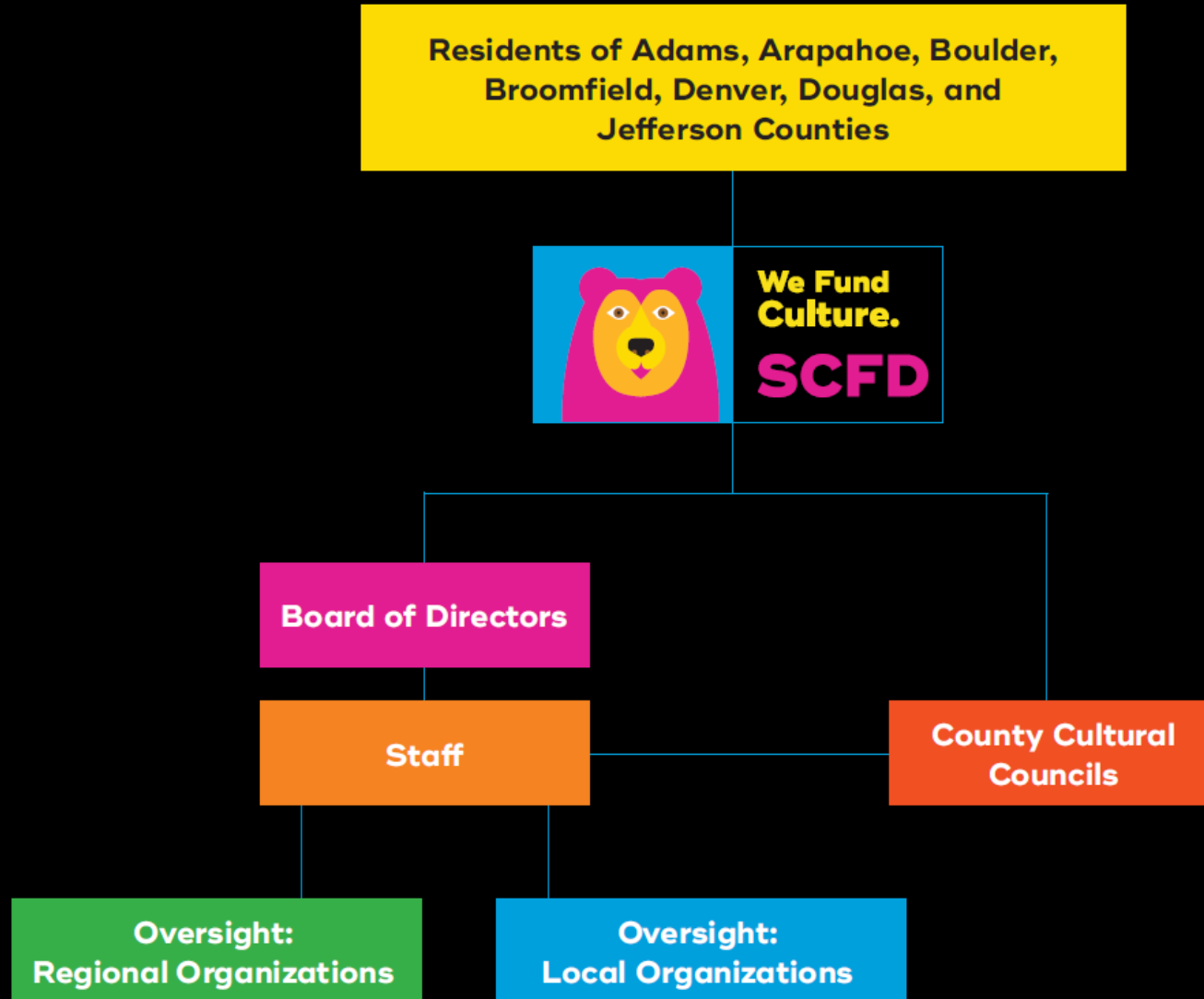


SCFD Counties



SCFD

SCFD ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



HOW SCFD WORKS

For every **\$10 spent** in the metro Denver area, **one penny** of the sales tax goes directly to arts, culture and science organizations of all sizes with more than **300** organizations funded



SCFD

SCFD Nitty-gritty

This money is then given out annually to qualifying organizations in three ways:



**(By statute)
Largest National
Organizations**



**(By statute and
qualifying) Regional
Organizations**



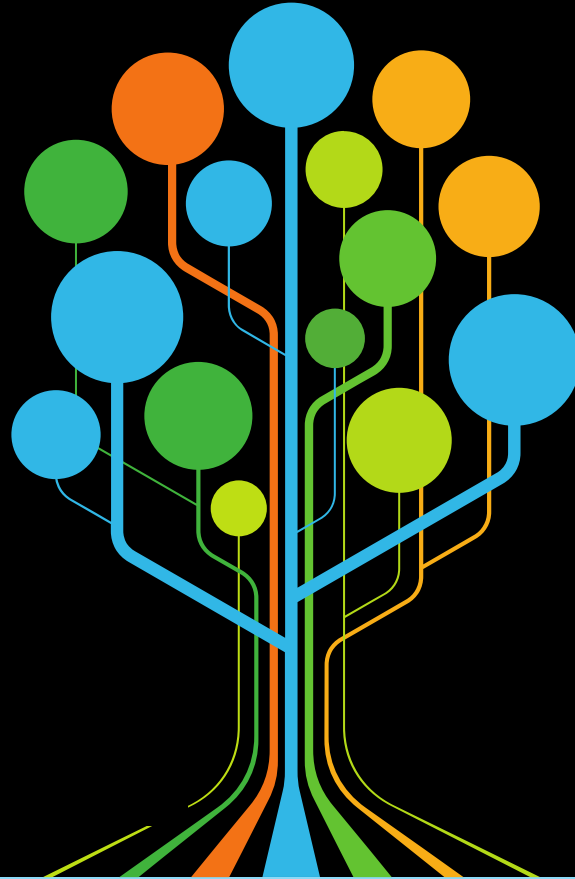
**(By county process)
Local Organizations**

SCFD

SCFD All Grown Up

1989

- 6 counties
- 1.8M Population
- 134 Organizations
- \$14M distribution



2024

- 7 counties
- 3.2M Population
- 304 Organizations
- \$85M distribution

SCFD

14,466
creative
sector jobs

\$3.12 billion
generated in economic activity

3.9 million
FREE cultural
experiences

**Real
Impact**

304

culture and scientific
organizations funded



**4.57
million**
educational
experiences

14.52 million
engagements with funded partners

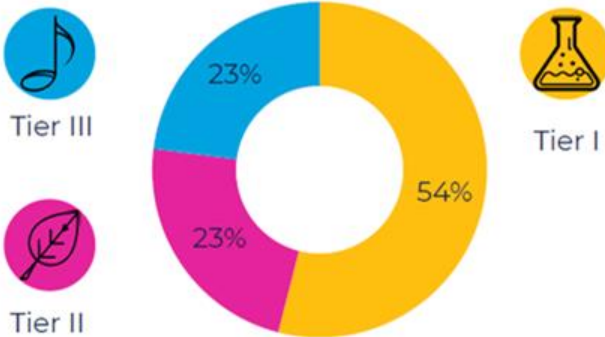
\$85 million
in grants

SCFD

#WeFundCulture #CultureForAll

2024 Impacts of Culture For All in Denver County

Denver Attendance By Tier



Key Impacts



4.5M resident engagements with grantees



All public schools in the county received cultural programming

Contribution to SCFD

\$24.1M



SCFD

2025 Denver-Based Funded Partners by District

District	Councilperson	# of Organizations
1	Amanda Sandoval	5
2	Kevin Flynn	1
3	Jamie Torres	15
4	Diana Romero Campbell	3
5	Amanda Sawyer	16
6	Paul Kashmann	11
7	Flor Alvidrez	8
8	Shontel M. Lewis	4
9	Darrell Watson	17
10	Christopher Hinds	22
11	Stacie Gilmore	1

2025 Denver County Tier I & II Funding

By the Numbers:

- \$64M in SCFD funding distributed to Denver County in 2024
- 3.8 million Denver County residents served by Tier I organizations in 2024
- 103 Tier I, II, and III organizations based in county in 2025

Tier I (5):

Denver Art Museum
Denver Botanic Gardens
Denver Center for the Performing Arts
Denver Museum of Nature & Science
Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance

Tier II (15):

Art Students League of Denver
CherryArts
Children's Museum of Denver
Clyfford Still Museum
Colorado Ballet
Colorado Children's Chorale
Colorado Symphony Association
Denver Film Society
Friends of Levitt Pavilion
Lighthouse Writers Workshop
Lion Global Foundation
Mizel Arts and Culture Center
Museum of Contemporary Art Denver
Swallow Hill Music Association
Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum

2025 Denver County Tier III Funding (83)

Access Gallery
Alliance Francaise de Denver
Art from Ashes
Artistico
Ballet Ariel
Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado
Black American West Museum
Bluff Lake Nature Center
Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave
Bug Performance and Media Art Center
Buntport Theater Company
Casa Milagro Youth Solutions Inc
Centro Cultural Mexicano
Chicano Humanities and Arts Council
City Park Jazz

CMDance
Colorado Celebration of African American Arts and Culture
Colorado Chamber Players
Colorado Conservatory for the Jazz Arts
Colorado Hebrew Chorale
Colorado Music Hall of Fame
Colorado New Style Foundation
Colorado Photographic Arts Center
Colorado Wind Ensemble
Colorado Youth Bands
Colorado Youth Symphony Orchestras
Columbine Chorale
Curious Theatre Company
Davis Contemporary Dance
Denver Architecture Foundation

Denver Biennial of the Americas Corporation
Denver Children's Choir
Denver March Powwow
Denver Municipal Band
Denver Philharmonic Orchestra
Denver Rail Heritage Society
Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
Denver Turnverein
Denver Turnverein Chorus
Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association
Denvers Art District on Santa Fe
Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK)
Firehouse Theater Company
Flamenco Denver
Forney Museum of Transportation

2025 Denver County Tier III Funding (83)

Four Mile Historic Park
Friends of Chamber Music
Gift of Jazz
Harmony: a Colorado chorale
Historic Denver/Molly Brown House Museum
Historic Elitch Gardens Theatre
Kim Robards Dance
Latino Cultural Arts Center
Leon Co
Mile High Freedom Band
Museo de las Americas
New Dance Theatre
Orpheus Pagan Chamber Choir
Phamaly Theatre Company
PlatteForum

PRESENTING DENVER
Rocky Mountain Arts Association
Sacred Voices
Sage Singers
Seriesfest
Skyline Chapter, Sweet Adelines International
Sound of the Rockies
Sphere Ensemble
Sprout City Farms
St. Martin's Chamber Choir
Su Teatro
Tango Colorado
TEPE
The Art Garage
The Denver Brass

The Urban Farm
Theatre Artibus
Think 360 Arts for Learning
Union Hall
Visionbox Studio
Warm Cookies of the Revolution
Wonderbound
Youth on Record

Spotlight: Lighthouse Writers Workshop – Writing with Cancer Program



Spotlight: Museo de las Americas – Lxs Jovenes Leadership Lab



Spotlight: Denver Center for the Performing Arts- Colorado New Playwright Summit



Public Support



1988 – Passed at 75% of the vote

1994 – Passed at 57% of the vote

2004 – Passed at 65.7% of the vote

2016 – Passed at 63% of the vote

2028 – Will be on ballot to reauthorize

Road to 2028 Reauthorization

Goals:

- Create an inclusive, transparent process for SCFD's stakeholders to facilitate equitable decision-making and outcomes
- Establish the foundation and structure for the next era of the SCFD that recognizes the profound evolution of society and the arts

Stakeholder Engagement Process (2026-2027)
1. Research and Landscape Analysis
2. District-Wide Listening Tour
3. Initial Proposal Development
4. Stakeholder Consensus Building
5. Final Proposal

Road to 2028 Reauthorization

Phase 1: Research & Landscape Analysis

- Onboarding
- Analysis of internal financial and structural data
- Informational interviews with community members
- Stakeholder mapping

Phase 2: District-Wide Listening Tour

- Listening tour (in person and virtual opportunities)
- Questionnaire for funded partners
- Formation of stakeholder advisory group
- Presentation on learnings

Road to 2028 Reauthorization

Phase 3: Initial Proposal Development

- Create menu of conceptual changes to statute
- Fiscal analysis and forecasting
- Proposal development and dissemination

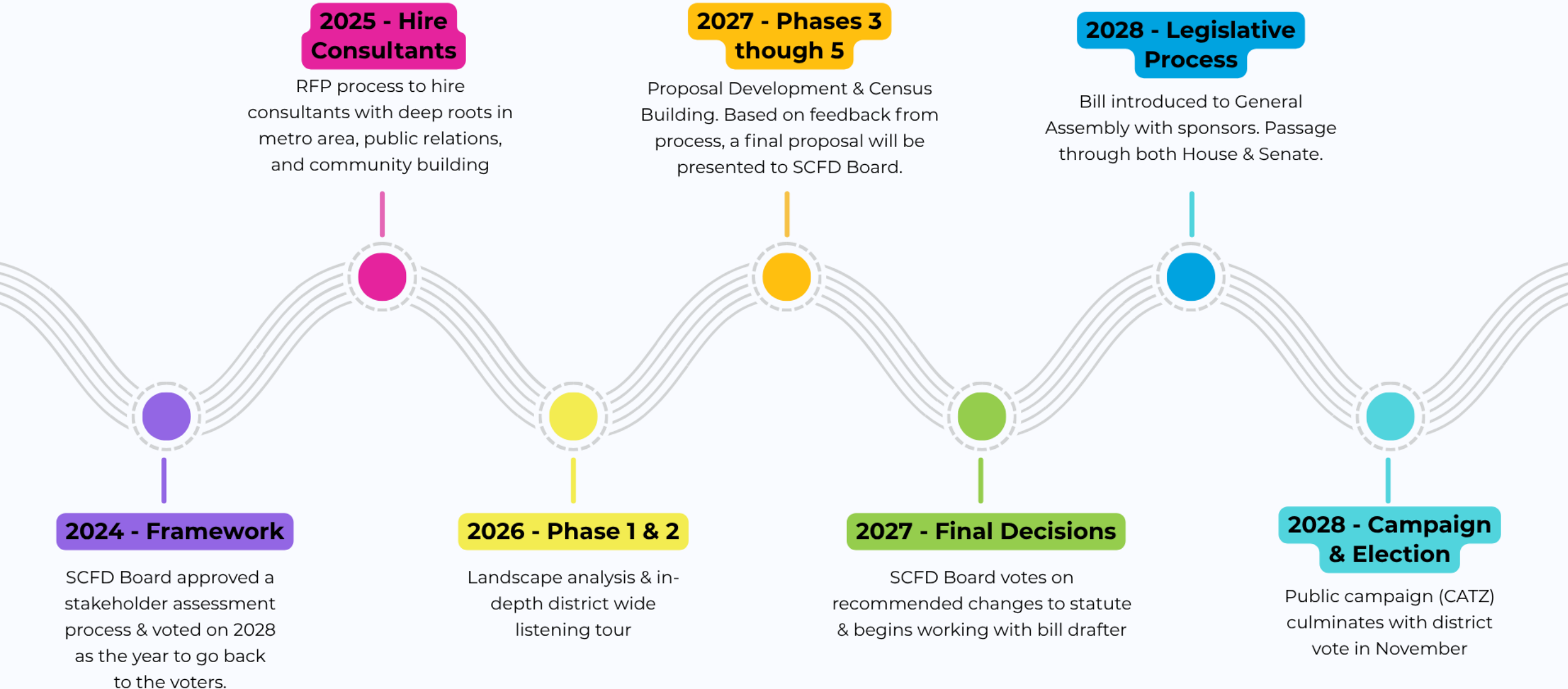
Phase 4: Stakeholder Consensus Building

- Work sessions with Stakeholder Advisory Group
- Refine proposal and track consensus
- Legislative engagement

Phase 5: Final Proposal and Board Action

- Proposal finalization
- Board vote on proposal
- Legislative engagement

Reauthorization Timeline



Call To Action

Attend SCFD Day at the Capitol on February 24



Check out our 2024 Annual Report!



Check out CBCA's EAS Study



Thank you!

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