



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

DENVER ARTS & VENUES

Proposed Charter Change

“So that all may thrive, Arts & Venues enriches and advances Denver’s quality of life and economic vitality through premier public venues, arts, cultural and entertainment opportunities.”

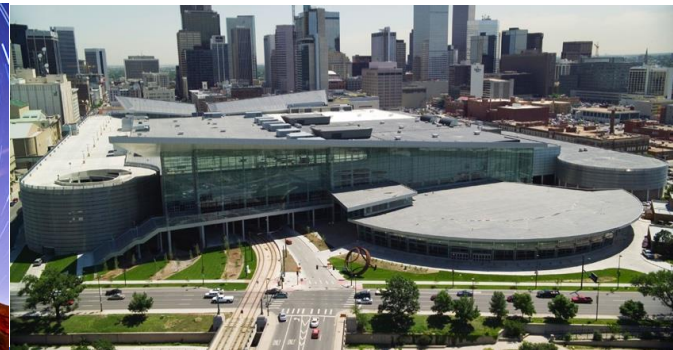
August 6, 2019

- Charter currently assigns operation of municipal facilities – including those used for theatre, auditorium or concert purposes – to General Services (GS)
- Theatres & Arenas was once a named division of GS:
 - Designated to manage new (at that time) and unique city assets focused on art and entertainment venues like Auditorium Theatre (now the Ellie), the Coliseum, and Currigan Hall (precursor to the Colorado Convention Center)
 - Red Rocks located within a Denver Mountain Park and operated by division starting in the 1950s
 - Over time, the division operated independently and was increasingly treated as a separate agency with duties delegated by the GS Exec Director





- In addition to Theatres & Arenas overseeing venue operations, several other art/culture functions have existed throughout the city over time:
 - Denver Public Art Program was established in 1988
 - The Mayor's Office of Art, Culture and Film was created in early 1992 and became the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs (DOCA) in 2004
- In 2011, Theatres & Arenas and the DOCA merged to create Denver Arts & Venues (A&V):
 - The associated powers and duties of A&V were defined in the municipal code at that time





- Remove reference to operation of theatre/arena/auditorium venues from GS to reflect A&V as an independent agency
- Companion ordinance will update A&V code sections to remove reference to GS oversight
- No additional positions or resources needed for this change



Proposed charter change for A&V:

- Formalizes A&V as an independent agency by removing reference to operation of certain venues from GS' duties
 - This change does not create a new Charter department
- Codifies current practices and reporting
 - A&V Executive Director will continue to be a Mayoral appointee
- Reconciles existing discrepancies between Charter language and actual day to day operations

“Shall the charter of the City and County of Denver be amended to remove from the Department of General Services the management and control of facilities owned or leased by the City and County for theatre, concert, auditorium or arena purposes, in order to conform the charter to other laws of the City and County assigning the responsibility to manage such facilities to the agency known as Denver Arts & Venues?”

- Finance and Governance Committee: August 6th
- Mayor-Council: August 13th
- 1st Reading: August 19th
- 2nd Reading/Referral: August 26th
- Election: November 5th