

DENVER COUNTY CULTURAL COUNCIL

APPLICATION

Name: Kristin Aslan

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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).

For more than a decade I worked with Boulder county non-profit agencies that empower young people to become self-advocates and leaders in their community. Beginning as a volunteer for TEENS, Inc. in 1997, I served as a board member, group facilitator, teen center director, and finally as the executive director for the last three years of my tenure at the organization from 2003-2005. While at TEENS, Inc., I repeatedly turned to the transformative power of the arts to help young people better understand themselves and the world around them; from mural projects to improv theater, under my leadership, the arts played a significant role in the programming at the organization, which made a difference in the lives of nearly four hundred youth each year.

When seeking a new challenge I looked for a position at a youth serving organization with a mission-driven focus on the arts. In 2005, I took over as the executive director of Project YES (Youth Envisioning Social change) that has a mission to provide leadership opportunities to young people through the arts and service learning. At Project YES, I was able to bring my experience with non-profit administration into lockstep with my personal interest in helping young people find the arts. I strengthened the organization's financial position while maintaining high quality programs that engaged young people in using art as a vehicle for social change and personal growth. While at Project YES I represented the organization in the Arts Group, a collective of art-based youth serving non-profit organizations in the Denver metro area. The group was facilitated through a grant from the Denver and JFM Foundations for the purpose of identifying the needs of such organizations and to see if there was an opportunity to share resources toward a common goal. As a member, I became familiar with many of the Denver-based organizations that are supported through SCFD Tier III funding and was continually impressed with their important work.

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

The experience I have gained through my years of work with non-profit agencies similar in size and scope to many of the TIER III organizations, will directly translate to the duties and scope of membership on the Denver County Cultural Council. In addition to possessing a deep understanding of non-profit organizations' challenges and opportunities, I am comfortable with evaluating non-profit financials, organizational structures, and planning documents that may be included in SCFD Tier III

funding requests. Furthermore, I have experience in both writing and evaluating grant proposals and welcome the opportunity to serve as a liaison to funded Tier III agencies.

I currently hold the position of Director of Grants and Planning at Red Rocks Community College in Lakewood, CO where my duties include developing grant proposals for all departments in response to local, state and federal funding opportunities. Through my position, I am encouraged to participate in related activities that will serve the community. As such, I recently served as a grant reviewer for the Colorado Department of Education during their 2010/2011 21st Century Community Learning Center funding cycle.

In addition to my demonstrated experience in the non-profit sector, I hold a bachelor's degree in cultural anthropology from the State University of New York at New Paltz, a Colorado teaching license for 6th-12th grade social studies from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and a certificate in authentic leadership from Naropa University's Marpa Center for Business and Economics. I worked for four years as a field archeologist in Colorado and New Mexico prior to entering the non-profit sector full-time and have been a patron of the arts since birth. As the daughter of an art teacher, growing up for the first five years of my life in Copenhagen and Paris, then just outside of New York City for the next two decades, I had the opportunity to interact regularly with some of the world's most celebrated cultural treasures. Through this experience, I developed a great admiration for history, culture, science and the arts and a belief that access to them is a right of each citizen, not a privilege to be had by a few.

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

2008 – Present – board member, Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth (AWRSAY), Arvada, CO. As a member of the board I am responsible for fundraising and funds distribution in the form of scholarships to high school seniors to attend Red Rocks Community College and scholarships for 6th – 11th graders to participate in a leadership activity. AWRSAY works to ensure that teens who have overcome adversity, but have been unrecognized, receive public praise, increased education and on-going opportunities with the goal of helping them achieve their potential.

2006 – Present – advisory board member, Catalyst High School, Lafayette, CO. Most recently I have supported Catalyst HS by facilitating their 2010-2013 strategic planning process and am currently serving as a volunteer consultant for the development of several grant proposals. Catalyst High School is an accredited private non-profit high school providing an individualized learning experience that empowers students to achieve academic and personal success.

Since moving to Denver I have been eager to invest my volunteer time locally. Serving as a member of the Cultural Council provides me with a wonderful opportunity to apply my experience, energy and talents to support the community in which I live.

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.

Cheryl Van Hoose-Barone, Co-President, AWRSAY Board of Directors
Email: cheryl.barone@mac.com
Phone: 303-697-4000

Ed Porritt, Executive Director and Principal, Catalyst High School
Email: Ed.porritt@catalysths.org

Phone: 303-604-6512

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Please answer the questions stated above even if you attach a bio.
- If not selected for the DCCC would you be willing to serve on another volunteer panel? Not at this time.
- Is there anything that would adversely affect public confidence in you appointment? If yes, please explain. NO.

SIGNATURE

DATE

Please submit applications to gretchen.williams@denvergov.org; to Gretchen Williams, Denver City Council, Room 451, City & County Building, Denver, CO 80202; or fax to 720-865-9540 by 5:00 p.m. on August 6, 2010.