

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 25-1973

Honoring The Denver Foundation's 100th Anniversary (1925–2025)

WHEREAS, in 1925 a group of public-minded Denver citizens founded The Denver Foundation as a new kind of “community chest” to support the greater good by pooling and growing charitable funds, making it one of the first community foundations in the nation; and

WHEREAS, The Denver Foundation received its first gift in 1927 (a donation of \$1,000 from local philanthropist J.K. Mullen) which paved the way for the foundation’s first grant to Denver’s Community Chest (today known as Mile High United Way), launching a legacy of investing in Denver’s needs; and

WHEREAS, over the past century The Denver Foundation has grown into Colorado’s oldest and largest community foundation, with its assets expanding from that initial \$1,000 gift to more than \$1.4 billion stewarded today; and

WHEREAS, fueled by the generosity of donors, The Denver Foundation has connected philanthropy to impact on an unprecedented scale – receiving over \$2.1 billion in contributions and awarding more than \$1.5 billion in grants to nonprofits across Metro Denver and beyond, supporting over 13,000 unique community organizations to date; and

WHEREAS, The Denver Foundation’s focus has continually evolved to meet the community’s changing needs, supporting social services, education, and health in its early years and later concentrating on areas like economic opportunity and basic human needs, while today the foundation centers diversity, equity, and inclusion in all its work, striving for a Metro Denver where leadership, prosperity, and culture are racially equitable and actively working to reduce racial disparities; and

WHEREAS, The Denver Foundation has invested in future generations through initiatives such as its scholarship programs, including the Reisher Scholars Program, which since 2001 has awarded nearly \$39 million in scholarships to help more than 2,400 students earn college degrees and is on track to become Colorado’s largest private scholarship fund; and

WHEREAS, in celebration of its 100th anniversary, The Denver Foundation is giving back to the community through special Centennial Initiatives, investing in projects that promote equity, education, and community well-being, including major improvements at La Raza Park, sponsoring free community days at the Denver Zoo and the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, supporting the immersive “Jurassic Oceans” exhibit at the museum, and funding a new children’s playground at the Denver Zoo’s Wild Village; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Denver has joined in honoring this milestone by illuminating the Denver City & County Building in teal (The Denver Foundation’s signature color) and officially declaring November 30, 2025 as “The Denver Foundation Centennial Celebration Day” in the City and County of Denver.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE DENVER CITY COUNCIL:

Section 1. That the Denver City Council hereby designates November 30, 2025 as “The Denver Foundation Centennial Celebration Day” in Denver.

Section 2. That the Clerk and Recorder of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL November 24, 2025

PRESIDENT

