

MEMORANDUM – COMMISSION ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS

TO:	City Council
FROM:	Office of Boards & Commissions
DATE:	08/16/2024
PURPOSE:	Appointment and Reappointments for Commission on Cultural Affairs
PROCESS:	City Council Confirmation
PROJECT:	N/A
NEXT STEPS:	City Council Confirmation

BOARD/COMMISSION:

TARIANA NAVA-NIEVES, ARTS & VENUES

CURRENT BOARD STATUS: Active

Scope of Board/Commission: : The Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs (DCCA) was established in 1991 to support the Mayor and act as an advisory board for Denver Arts & Venues. The Commissioners serve as trustees of Denver’s Cultural Plan and oversee the 1% for Public Art Program. This program enacted into Ordinance by Denver City Council in 1991, directs that 1% of any city-funded capital improvement project over \$1 million is set aside for the inclusion of art, so the collection continues to grow each year. Over \$40 million has been invested in the public art collection, along with historic and donated works of art, providing opportunity for Denver residents to experience art in public places.

Mayor appoints 24 members to this Commission for a term of three years. City Council confirms

APPOINTMENT CANDIDATES

David Olguin (Male)(Hispanic)



BIO: Director of Cultural & Community Engagement, Auraria Higher Education Center

Olguín, an adult first-generation graduate, obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Public Service at the School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado Denver and an Associate of Arts at Front Range Community College, Westminster. David completed his degree with distinction by intentionally fusing his degree pathway to ethnic studies research gaining knowledge of the histories, and epistemologies of Black, Indigenous, Chicano, and Latino communities.

David has previously served as the Student Advisor to the CCHE, the Co-Chair of the Equity Champions Coalition at the CDHE, Legislative Liaison to the State Student Advisory Council of CCCS, RISE Education Fund selection committee member. Olguín continues to serve Denver’s Latino community as a mayoral appointee and Chair to the Latino Commission of Denver’s Human Rights and Community Partnerships, and as a board member of Papagayo.

Term: September 1st 2024 – August 31st 2027

Nikki Swarn (Female)(African American)

BIO: Director of the Public Media Accelerator/CMO of Urban Alternative Radio, Rocky Mountain Public Media

A visionary, energetic, results-oriented, multimedia executive with a comprehensive record of success in developing strategic direction, fostering innovation, product development and planning, qualitative and quantitative research, effective content monetization, fundraising and revenue generation. Passionate about leveraging data-driven insights to continuously elevate audience engagement and connection to support sustainability

Term: September 1st 2024 – August 31st 2027

Alisha Sweeney (Female)(Caucasian)

BIO: Host & Local Music Director, Colorado Public Radio – Indie 102.3

Launched Colorado Public Radio's new and independent music station in 2011 (FKA OpenAir) and currently serve as Host, Producer, and Local Music Director curating and innovating all the Colorado music that gets played hourly. Award-winning radio host providing entertaining and thoughtful commentary and daily features on music, pop culture, and timely news.

Term: September 1st 2024 – August 31st 2027

Will Holden (Male) (Caucasian)

Bio: Director of Communications & Storytelling, Gary Community Ventures

Worked alongside great teams and mentors as a writer, newspaper reporter, news anchor, network TV producer, and I've been honored to have been awarded for that work nationally by the Associated Press, regionally by the Heartland Emmys and locally by the Society of Professional Journalists. But as I've grown in my career, I've become equally proud of the work I've done alongside equally talented teams to generate tangible and cultural impacts from our storytelling work. That work has included the storytelling campaign for Proposition 123, the first successful ballot measure in the U.S. to create a statewide solution to the affordable housing crisis; the Better Beginnings podcast, which remains among the top 10 family podcasts in Denver after being originally activated as part of a successful effort to pass legislation that established Colorado's Department of Early Childhood; and CO.

created, a community storytelling platform featuring visual, written, short film and podcast content that's successfully driving narrative and systems change work in collaboration with Gary's partners.

Term: September 1st 2024 – August 31st 2027

William Browning (Male) (Caucasian)



Bio: CEO, Clayton Early Learning

A highly accomplished and enterprising social impact executive with domestic and international experience in program development, fundraising, business operations, P&L management, budgeting, change management, and strategic planning. Exceptional track record of providing transformational leadership for both small and large organizations. Highly engaged in the ECE and K-12 education ecosystems and brings deep expertise in

collective impact programming. Over 25 years of operational and business experience spanning government, nonprofit, and commercial sectors.

Term: September 1st 2024 – August 31st 2027

Reappointment Candidates:

Ricard Acosta (Male) (Hispanic)



Bio: Retired

After a career in communications and cable programming creation and distribution, Rick turned his attention to our community's arts and culture life force. He's lead several nonprofit organizations as an executive and board member. He pledges to support the Commission and its valuable work.

Term: September 1st 2024 – August 31st 2027

Aisha Ahmad-Post (Female)

Bio: Aisha is the Executive Director of the Robert and Judi Newman Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Denver. Previously, she was the inaugural Director of the Ent Center for the Arts at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs and Producer of Public Programs for The New York Public Library. Prior to her transition to the nonprofit sector, she held positions at Columbia Artists Management and Barrett Vantage Artists.

Term: September 1st 2024 – August 31st 2027

Sara Hogan (Female) (Caucasian)

Bio: Sarah is Barefoot PR's resident word nerd and co-founder. Sarah has channeled her lifelong passion for storytelling into a career in PR and community investment. She leads Barefoot PR's Research-Based Messaging work and contributes to the strategy we build for nonprofits, government agencies and community-minded businesses. When she is not at work, you can find Sarah reading long articles on her iPad, listening to podcasts, championing Denver's creative community or building Legos with her son Andrew.

Term: September 1st 2024 – August 31st 2027

Dan Manzanares (Male) (Caucasian)

Bio: Author & Writing Coach. Dan is an award-winning literary arts advocate who holds a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from Western Colorado University. He's a founding board member of the nonprofit Sidewalk Poets, and co-founder of Story Quest, a creative business teaching aspiring authors how to use the power of storytelling to unlock their imagination.

Term: September 1st 2024 – August 31st 2027

Paola Correa-Nava (Female) (Hispanic)

Bio: Cultural Arts Specialist, Boys & Girls Club

Paola is a Mexican dreamer and cultural art specialist. She aspires to be an art ambassador who embraces all art and makes it more accessible to everyone. Its her first year as a commissioner and she's very thankful to be apart of DCCA.

Term:. September 1st 2024 – August 31st 2027

CURRENT BOARD

CURRENT BOARD	TERM END DATE
Richard Acosta	August 31st 2024
Aisha Ahmad-Post	August 31st 2024
Such Charles	August 31st 2026
Benjamin Chavez	August 31st 2025
Paola Correa-Nava	August 31st 2024
Jada Suzzanne Dixon	August 31st 2027
Rachel Garcia	August 31st 2026
Sarah Hogan	August 31st 2024
Marisa Hollingsworth	August 31st 2026

Lisa Kennedy **August 31st 2026**

Damon McLeese **August 31st 2026**

Elizabeth Macy **August 31st 2027**

Dan Manzanares **August 31st 2024**

Joshua Margolin **August 31st 2025**

Alexis Moore **August 31st 2025**

Tran Nguyen-Willis **August 31st 2026**