

## Boulder City Council

### RESOLUTION NO. 1180

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE 2016 RENEWAL OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL FACILITIES DISTRICT.

#### FINDINGS

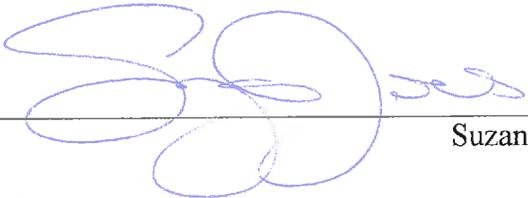
1. The Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (“SCFD”) is a nationally acclaimed, regional model for funding cultural organizations. It has pioneered what is proven to be a successful post-Great Recession approach where cities and metropolitan regions make their urban and suburban spaces as livable, quality, affordable, sustainable communities through co-invention and co-production; and
2. The SCFD has been approved by the Colorado Legislature and endorsed by voters in three region-wide elections in 1988, 1994 and 2004, and will be up for renewal in 2016. SCFD-funded cultural organizations welcome approximately 14.6 million visitors annually. Last year, SCFD funding provided 5.2 million people with free admission to regional cultural institutions and allowed another 4.2 million people to visit at reduced cost; and
3. The source of SCFD’s funding is a one-tenth of one penny sales tax, which equates to one penny on a \$10 purchase. Voters in our seven-county metropolitan region will be asked in 2016 to extend, not increase, this tax for an additional 12 years; and
4. The SCFD provides vital funding to nearly 300 cultural and science organizations throughout our seven-county metropolitan region, and does so with minimal regulation and overhead. It helps these organizations preserve and protect priceless collections of animals, art, plants, natural history, and historical sites for citizens to learn from and enjoy for generations to come; and
5. The most recent economic activity study of the arts in our metropolitan region reveals that cultural organizations and facilities generate more than \$1.85 billion a year in economic activity, more than 10,000 jobs, and over \$410 million in cultural tourism; and
6. In 2015, \$1.86 million will flow to Boulder County in SCFD funding. SCFD-funded organizations serve 106 schools throughout Boulder County, providing in 2014 100 days of free programs and exhibits, and thousands of tours and cultural experiences for Boulder County school children. The Colorado state demographer estimates that, in 2014, Boulder County’s population was 313,624, and yet SCFD’s 2015 Audited Certification Reports reveal that in that same year, there were 303,557 visits to Tier I organizations by Boulder County residents; and
7. Colorado Chautauqua, eTown, and the Colorado Music Festival and Center for Musical Arts are respected and thriving SCFD-funded Tier II organizations in Boulder County, each of which contribute to the unique cultural richness and quality of life for the people of this community and throughout our region. Our city is also home to 44 outstanding Tier III organizations, each of which works diligently to engage, inspire, and enrich the lives of local talent and local audiences alike; and

8. The SCFD Board conducted a public process during 2013 to 2015, during which it adopted significant funding and programming enhancements to improve SCFD effectiveness. The process appears to have been exhaustive, inclusive, and fair. All participants had multiple opportunities to make their case for additional funding. Working diligently for more than three years to balance fairly the needs of each Tier, the SCFD Reauthorization Recommendations Taskforce composition included a) Tier III – six representatives; b) Tier II – four representatives; c) Tier I – three representatives; and d) two former and two current SCFD Board members, none of whom sit on the board of a Tier I organization; and
9. The SCFD Board’s reauthorization recommendations shift substantial funding away from Tier I to Tiers II and III; and
10. Throughout the 12-year SCFD term that will span 2018 through 2030, when compared to the existing funding formula, Tier II groups will receive \$22 million more and Tier III groups will receive \$15.3 million more, while Tier I will receive \$37.3 million less when compared to the existing formula; and
11. In 2018 alone, Tier II and Tier III funding will increase \$2.5 million over the prior year — a 13% increase — while Tier I will receive almost \$1 million less; and
12. Over the proposed 12-year SCFD term, Tier I revenue will increase at just over the historical rate of inflation, while Tier II and Tier III revenues will increase by over twice the historical rate of inflation. This provides significant additional dollars to Tiers II and III, which will allow them to grow substantially faster; and
13. The SCFD is a metropolitan-regional cultural gem that has historically been a favorite among voters – progressive, moderate, and conservative – because of the undeniable benefit it provides, the organizations that SCFD funds, and the regional support that SCFD has enjoyed for nearly 30 years.

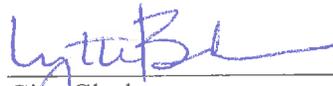
**RESOLUTION**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Boulder hereby supports the renewal of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District with the provisions adopted by the SCFD board of directors and urges legislative and voter support for the renewal of the District and the continued benefits the SCFD provides.

RESOLVED, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016

  
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Suzanne Jones, Mayor

Attest

  
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City Clerk