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**For release: October 26, 2011**

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## **Arts, science and cultural groups receive \$1.15 million in SCFD funds** *Arapahoe County Cultural Council distributes revenues to 80 local organizations*

**Littleton, Colo.** – The Arapahoe County Cultural Council awarded \$1.15 million of Scientific and Cultural Facilities District Tier III funds to benefit 81 local art, cultural, scientific and historical organizations at a ceremony on Oct. 20.

“This funding will reach residents of all ages with the gift of scientific and cultural experiences, and help to make our community a better place to live and play,” said Arapahoe County Commissioner Frank Weddig.

SCFD Board Chairman James Harrington joined the 13 citizen members of the Cultural Council to distribute checks to groups that enlighten or entertain the public in the areas of art, music, theater, dance, zoology, botany, natural history or cultural history.

“We could not do what we do for more than four hundred local children without this financial support,” said Jena Dickey, Founder and Artistic Director for Littleton-based Young Voices of Colorado, a children’s choir for ages 7 to 16, which received a grant for \$45,000. The organization has relied on SCFD funding for much of its 21-year history. “We are ever so grateful that we can depend on this funding again to educate kids who love to sing and want to develop their voices and musical skills.”

“This support is essential for us to bring in guest speakers and hire a seasonal naturalist, which allows us to serve more citizens in Arapahoe County,” said Naturalist Mary Ann Bonnell with the City of Aurora’s Open Space and Natural Resources Division. Bonnell shared that the City will put its \$12,749 SCFD grant toward nature education programs, such as botany, wildlife safety and awareness, water quality and geology, for residents ‘from pre-school to PhD.’

Arapahoe County is one of seven metro-area counties where voters approved a 0.1 percent retail sales and use tax (1 cent on every \$10) in 1988 to create and fund the SCFD. Revenues from the tax total around \$40 million each year and are distributed to over 300 organizations through a three-tiered system. Tier III funds, which totaled \$5.5 million this year, are allocated to counties based on their share of retail sales. Arapahoe County received the second-highest share this year behind Denver County, which received \$1.55 million.

Arapahoe County’s Cultural Council was responsible for reviewing applications from community organizations and forming recommendations to allocate the \$1.15 million to groups that represent a strong

mix of cultural and scientific offerings to the community. The funding plan was approved by the Board of County Commissioners and SCFD Board. A complete list of funded organizations and awards is available online at [www.scfid.org](http://www.scfid.org).

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To download photos, please click the following link:

<ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/SCFDCeremony/>

**AuroraSCFD.jpg:** The City of Aurora Open Space and Natural Resources Division was one of 80 local organizations to receive a grant from the County's Science and Cultural Facilities District funding. City Naturalist Mary Ann Bonnell accepted the check from SCFD Director Jim Harrington (right) and Arapahoe County Cultural Council Chairman Roy Bartee.