



Executive Committee

Colleen Whitlow
Chair

Richard Kondo
Vice Chair

Jeslin Shahrezaei
Secretary

Judi Kern
Treasurer

Jeff Baker
Immediate Past Chair

Douglas W. Rex
Executive Director

Agenda

Performance and Engagement Committee

Wednesday, July 15, 2026
5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
1001 17th St., 7th Floor, Red Rocks Conference Room
Denver, CO

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1. Call to order

Consent agenda

2. Move to approve Consent agenda
 - A. Summary of May 20, 2026, meeting
(Attachment A)

Informational briefings

3. Awards celebration preview
(Attachment B) Amber Leberman, Program Manager, Communications and Marketing

Administrative items

4. Report of the Chair
5. Report of the Executive Director
6. **Next meeting – August 19, 2026**
7. Other matters by members
8. Adjourn

ATTACH A

Performance and Engagement Committee Meeting Summary

Wednesday May 20, 2026

Members Present

Jeslin Shahrezaei, Chair	Lakewood
Austin Ward	Broomfield
Kevin Flynn	Denver
Nicole Speer	Boulder
Deborah Mulvey	Castle Pines
Steve Conklin	Edgewater
Colleen Whitlow	Mead
Richard Kondo	Northglenn
John Diak	Parker

Others Present: Doug Rex, Executive Director; and DRCOG staff.

Chair Shahrezaei called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

Move to Adopt the Consent Agenda

Director Speer **moved** to adopt the consent agenda. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Items on the consent agenda included:

- Summary of the April 15, 2026, Meeting

Discussion on the selection of John V. Christensen Memorial Award winner

Members discussed the list of nominees for the John V. Christensen Award. Directors narrowed down the list to an official candidate chosen to be the recipient of the award.

Director Diak **moved** to select a recipient for the John V. Christensen Memorial Award. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Report of the Chair

There was no report.

Report of the Executive Director

There was no report.

Other Matters by Members

There were no other matters by members.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.

ATTACH B

Performance and Engagement Committee

Meeting date: July 15, 2026

Agenda Item #: 3

Awards celebration preview

Agenda item type: Informational briefing

Summary

A brief planning update for the August 26 awards celebration.

Background

Staff is currently planning the August 26 awards celebration at Seawell Ballroom at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Staff will provide the committee with brief updates on the venue, catering, winner selection and sponsorships.

Action by others

None

Previous discussion/action

The Performance and Engagement Committee selected the recipient of the John V. Christensen Memorial Awards on May 20. Previously, staff provided an update on the awards categories and nominations process on February 18. On October 15, 2025, staff recapped the 2025 awards celebration and received committee feedback to inform this year's planning.

Recommendation

None

Attachment(s)

Staff presentation

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at 303-480-6701; or Steve Erickson, Director, Communications and Marketing 303-480-6716 or serickson@drcog.org.





Awards celebration update

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Details

- Wednesday, **August 26**.
- **Seawell Ballroom** at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts.



Social hour

- Starts at **5:30 p.m.** (a half-hour earlier than last year).
- Helen Bonfils Theater Complex
Lower and **Crescent lobbies**
- Musical entertainment by
Peneplain jazz trio.



Catering

- **Serendipity Catering**, based in Lakewood, a green caterer.
- **Positive guest feedback** from previous celebrations.
- **Awards celebration** and **Bike to Work Day** sponsor discount.

Program highlights

- **Steve Staeger**, 9 News Steve on Your Side, returns as emcee.
- Recognition of **Jeff Baker** as immediate past chair.
- And of course, someone will win the **regional quiz**.



The program will recognize 18 winners



- Three **Way to Go** award winners.
- Six **Distinguished Service Award** winners.
- Eight **Metro Vision Award** winners.
- One **John V. Christensen Memorial Award** winner.

Winner notifications

- **Way to Go, Distinguished Service** and **Metro Vision** award winners were notified in **early June**.
- **Board directors** and **alternates** from member governments with winning **Metro Vision projects, programs or plans** will be notified in **early July**.
- The **John V. Christensen Memorial Award** winner is a **secret** until the awards celebration.

Sponsorship pace

- As-of **July 2**, sponsorship value was **slightly ahead of pace** compared with the previous two years.
- The typical uptick in **member government sponsorship interest** following **winner notifications** is somewhat lagging, similar to last year.
- **Nonprofit sponsorships** are also somewhat behind pace.

Confirmed sponsorships

Level	2024	2025	2026 (to date)
Member government	13	14	6
Nonprofit	16	9	6
Bronze	5	7	6
Silver	9	7	3
Gold	3	3	2
Platinum	0	0	2
Total sponsors	46	40	25
Total sponsor funding	\$80,844	\$71,700	\$73,400



Register now

- **Directors** and **alternates** can register at bit.ly/26AwardsBOD.
- Your registration is **complimentary**, bring your first guest for \$49.

Thank you!

Amber Leberman, Communications Manager

aleberman@drcog.org

303-480-6706

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