



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, September 16, 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 July 15, 2026, meeting
(Attachment A)

Informational briefings

3. Awards celebration recap
(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 – October 21, 2026**
7. Other matters by members
8. Adjourn

ATTACH A

Performance and Engagement Committee Meeting Summary

Wednesday July 15, 2026

Members Present

Jeslin Shahrezaei, Chair	Lakewood
Jeff Baker	Arapahoe County
Austin Ward	Broomfield
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; Judi Kern, Louisville; and DRCOG staff.

Chair Shahrezaei called the meeting to order at approximately 5:31 p.m. with a quorum present.

Move to Adopt the Consent Agenda

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

Items on the consent agenda included:

- Summary of the May 20, 2026, Meeting

Awards celebration preview

Amber Leberman provided an overview of the celebration to date to the committee. The August 26 awards celebration will return to the Sewell Ballroom at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, with an earlier 5:30 p.m. social hour and the program beginning around 7 p.m. Sponsorship remains strong with 33 total sponsors, including six member governments and two platinum sponsors, putting the event on track to meet its approximately \$90,000 fundraising goal. Board directors were encouraged to register for free and may bring guests for \$49, while staff continue refining event logistics and the awards program, including Wi-Fi access, the interactive quiz, and streamlined award videos to keep the program engaging and on schedule.

Report of the Chair

The Chair encouraged directors to get registered for the upcoming awards celebration.

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 August 19, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:54 p.m.

ATTACH B

Performance and Engagement Committee

Meeting date: September 16, 2026

Agenda Item #: 3

Awards celebration recap

Agenda item type: Informational briefing

Summary

A recap and feedback opportunity for the August 26 awards celebration.

Background

The awards celebration on August 26 at the Seawell Ballroom at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts garnered 450 attendees and 41 sponsors. Staff will provide a recap of the event and invite committee feedback on the 2026 celebration, as well as the opportunity to provide meaningful guidance for the next awards celebration, including, but not limited to, program elements, venue and date.

Action by others

None.

Previous discussion/action

Previously, staff provided a planning update on July 15. The Performance and Engagement Committee selected the recipient of the John V. Christensen Memorial Awards on May 20. Staff provided an update on the awards categories and nominations process on February 18.

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.

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Awards celebration recap

Performance and Engagement Committee | September 16, 2026



Topics

- Social hour, venue and catering.
- Attendees.
- Program and winners.
- Sponsorships.
- Success factors.
- Invitation for feedback.
- 2027 celebration.

Social hour

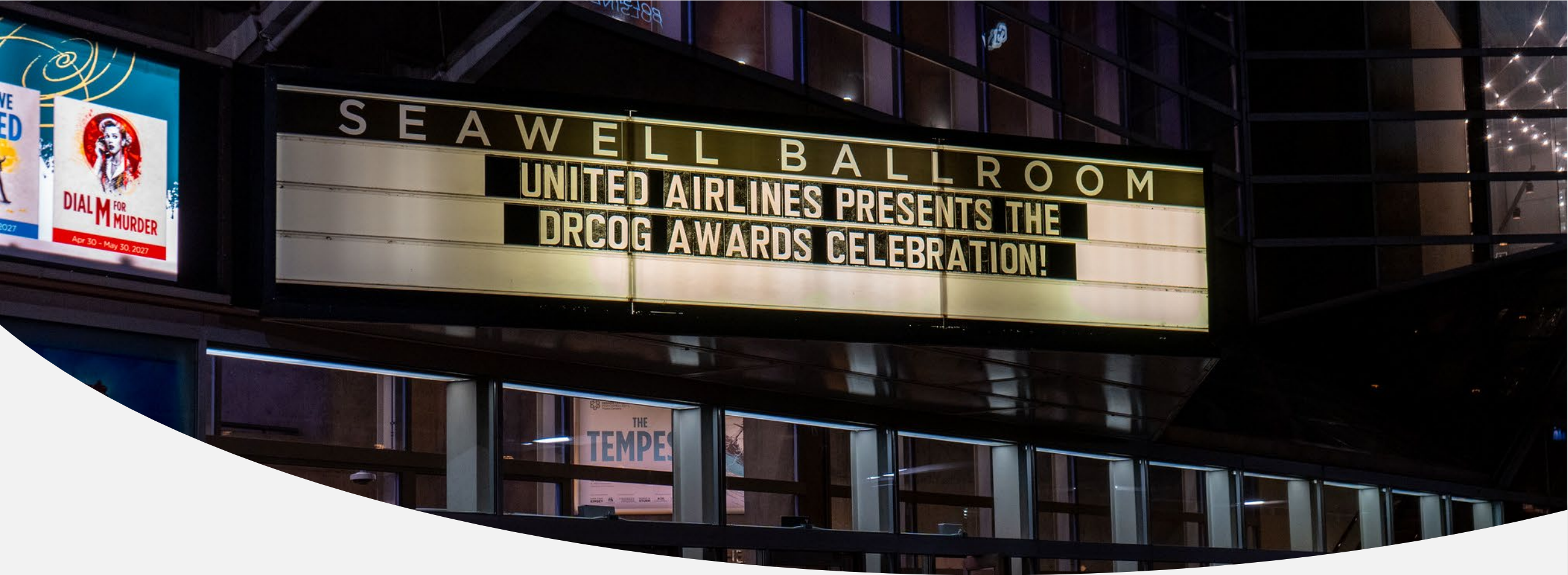
- Started at **5:30 p.m.** (a half-hour earlier than last year).
- Helen Bonfils Theater Complex
Lower and **Crescent lobbies**
- Musical entertainment by
Peneplain jazz trio.



Venue and catering

- **Seawell Ballroom** at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts.
- **Serendipity Catering**, based in Lakewood, a green caterer.
- The awards team has received **positive anecdotal feedback** about the catering so far.





Attendees

- Approximately **450 registrants** (50 more than last year).
- Few no-shows or unregistered attendees.

Program highlights

- **Steve Staeger**, 9News Steve on Your Side, returned as emcee.
- Honored **Jeff Baker** as immediate past chair.
- A City of Commerce City attendee won the **regional quiz**!





Winners

- Three **Way to Go** award winners.
- Eight **Metro Vision** award winners from throughout the region.
- Six individual recipients of **Distinguished Service Awards**.

John V. Christensen Memorial Award

Angie Rivera-Malpiede is the 49th winner, who has served the region via the Regional Transportation District board, Northeast Transportation Connections and national transportation appointments.



Winners represented many local governments

- Adams County
- City of Aurora
- City of Boulder
- Boulder County
- City and County of Broomfield
- Clear Creek County
- City of Commerce City
- City and County of Denver
- Douglas County
- City of Golden
- Jefferson County
- City of Lakewood
- City of Littleton
- City of Wheat Ridge



Two platinum sponsorships!

Sponsorships

Level	2024	2025	2026
Member government	13	14	9
Nonprofit	16	9	10
Bronze	5	7	12
Silver	9	7	4
Gold	3	3	3
Platinum	0	0	2
Sponsors	46	40	41
Funding	\$80,844	\$71,700	\$93,800



Success factors

- Leveraging existing **relationships** by returning to Seawell Ballroom year-over-year.
- Choosing the **event date a year in advance** and the **new logo** allows for streamlined promotion.



Invitation for feedback

The awards planning team **invites committee feedback** on any aspect of the celebration.

Planning for 2027

- The awards planning team recommends returning to **Seawell Ballroom** in late **August 2027**.
- Other options include Empower Field, hotel ballrooms, Bluebird Ballroom or Infinity Park.



Thank you!

Amber Leberman, Communications Manager

aleberman@drcog.org

303-480-6706

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