



Awards celebration recap

Performance and Engagement Committee | October 15, 2025



Topics

- Social hour, venue and catering.
- Attendees.
- Program and winners.
- Sponsorships.
- Success factors.
- Invitation for feedback.
- 2026 celebration.



Social hour

- Helen Bonfils Theater Complex **Lower** and **Crescent lobbies**.
- Room to **mingle**, **two bars**, **jazz trio**.



Venue and catering

- **Seawell Ballroom** at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts.
- **Serendipity Catering**, based in Lakewood.



Attendees

- Approximately **400** (slightly fewer than last year).
- **Fewer** no-shows and unregistered attendees.

Program highlights

- Social hour: **Penepain Jazz**.
- Emcee: **Steve Staeger** of 9 News.
- **Regional quiz** (with two winners).
- Honored **Steve Conklin** for Executive Committee service.
- Recognized **past chairs**.
- Almost **two-hour program**.





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

- **Jackie Millet**, former City of Lone Tree mayor, is the **48th champion** of regionwide collaboration.
- Chaired **DRCOG**, **Metro Mayors Caucus** and was a **Regional Air Quality Council** board appointee.



Sponsorships

Level	2024	2025	Change
Member government	13	14	one more
Nonprofit	16	9	seven fewer
Bronze	5	7	two more
Silver	9	7	two fewer
Gold	3	3	no change
Platinum	0	0	no change
Total sponsors	46	40	six fewer



Success factors

- Returning to Seawell and choosing the **event date** a full year ahead **streamlined planning** and **improved event promotion.**
- Late August is good for **Seawell availability.**



Invitation for feedback

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

2026: Potential venues

- Return to the **Seawell Ballroom**.
- Previous locations, such as **Empower Field** or a **hotel**.
- New location?





2026: Potential dates

- Wednesday, August 12.
- **Wednesday, August 26**
(best Seawell lobby availability).
- Wednesday, September 9.
- Wednesday, September 23.
- Wednesday, September 30.

Thank you!

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