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Cultural Council**

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January 25, 2011

National Arts and Humanities
Youth Program Awards

RE: Colorado Youth Symphony Orchestra

The Colorado Youth Symphony Orchestra is a shining example of bringing access to inner-city youth to experience the challenges and rewards of learning and performing orchestral music. Learning to play and even master an instrument is an extraordinary accomplishment but to take it to the next level and participate in the group dynamics of an orchestra, is lifetime learning.

The Colorado Youth Symphony Orchestra goes out of its way to make such an experience possible for hundreds of youth who would not find or be able to afford this experience on their own. CYSO raises funds specifically to make those experiences and opportunities come about for disadvantaged youth in the Denver area.

The Colorado Youth Symphony Orchestra student recruitment program is also noteworthy. They are constantly expanding their program to "introduce music education to an even broader audience" and have a goal of being at ten participating "public schools as part of our music outreach program by the year 2012". They also broaden their scope with Summer Chamber Music Camp and work with many other inner-city youth organizations, **not music based**, to bridge the gap between new communities to give youth access to a variety of programs. A large part of their recruitment inclusivity and outreach includes making transportation possible for these kids – a major factor in all arts education currently.

The Denver SCFD Cultural Council has been a strong supporter of CYSO for many years as they not only teach professionally directed music programs they do so in a way that assists us in the distribution of SCFD tax funds back to the community, for the community.

Please consider the Colorado Youth Symphony Orchestra funding request as they are indeed an outstanding, important, and successful youth arts program for Denver residents.

Sincerely,

Jane Potts

Jane Potts
Program Administrator