

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

City Club has, once again, through the efforts of its hardworking board, had a successful year. We have had some tremendous successes and have weathered several challenges. An indication of our success is that you might not have been aware of the challenges. We try to make it look seamless, easy and fun.

The Club was privileged to host two major addresses that unveiled new initiatives by recognized national figures. One came to us via our website and the other came to us because of the Club's longstanding reputation.

Richard Moe, President of the National Historic Trust, spoke to 167 members, guests and sponsors on: "Historic Preservation: The Unfinished Agenda in the West" His speech was covered in the national and local press. We hosted this speech with 12 sponsoring organizations. We believe this request came to us originally through our website and the confirmation of the Club's stature with local groups. Unfortunately, City Club did not get the credit it deserved for hosting this event. However, we learned what needs to be done in the future, if we have such an opportunity again.

Former Mayor Pena is using the June 6 date of our annual meeting to outline his proposals for immigration reform. When the press read the press release, we received requests to interview Mr. Pena before the speech. Out of great deference to the City Club, Mr. Pena declined, and suggested that the press could obtain the information after his speech. Mayor Pena decided to use the City Club as the forum for his analysis, because of his familiarity with the Club, and his respect for the Club.

As you can see from the report of the Program Committee, the Club, once again, put on a great range of programs. Next year, we hope to increase attendance at the cultural presentations. One of the ways to do this is to recruit members from the cultural organizations. Our attendance is always high at political presentations, but not at the cultural and scientific programs. In order to recruit participation and membership from these other organizations, the Board implemented a program to give a one year complimentary membership to our speakers in the 2005-2006 program year. Those letters went out last week and we are already receiving acceptance. The hope is that once our speakers see the depth and breadth of our programs, they will encourage memberships from their groups. We also believe that we need to thank our speakers.

One of the main challenges for the board was to go back to doing it all ourselves. As you know in the previous year, the Club had the luxury of a part-time Executive Director. Unfortunately, the

Club was not able to raise sufficient funds to pay for that position. As a result, the current board decided it was time to tighten our belt and roll up our sleeves and do all of the work ourselves, again. We also had to face the financing challenge of the substantially increased costs of the taping of our programs by Channel 8. Channel 8 had not increased the price for some years. At the beginning of the program year, they informed us they would charge \$344 per program, as opposed to \$225. In the past, the Club had found sponsors at about \$1,000 per year to pay for these costs. When we raised the price of these sponsorships, we lost our old sponsors. However, board members or their companies stepped forward and paid the new price. The Channel 8 sponsors this year are, Issacson, Rosenbaum, Woods, & Levy, P.C., The Mossa Group at Piper Jaffray and Koncilija & Associates, P.C. Since it was difficult to locate these three sponsors, the board decided the chances were slim that we could find additional sponsors to fund a part-time Executive Director.

Cherie Fisk, under the leadership of Matt Hogan, had spent a huge amount of time putting together a compilation of committee, board and administrative responsibilities. That document became the check list for board members and committees to pick up the work of the Executive Director. I am in the process of revising it again, based on what we learned, and also developing the chronology and list of forms and letters, so that this collective learning can be maintained.

Bob Root spearheaded, again under Matt Hogan's leadership, the finalization of the new logo and letterhead. We all think it is a great new look, that maintains the tone of our Club

Nancy Widmann, put together great special events. Martha Devine, found another accountant, Libby Fay, willing to take over the treasurers' job. IMI continued to provide support services at reasonable, but negotiated, prices. We hope the use of the new dedicated phone line and the new website will continue to help us efficiently manage the Club's activities.

Mary Hawley and the Brown Place gave us great service and cooperation. Please thank Mary and the wait staff.

The most impressive thing I learned this past year was the teamwork of all of the Board members. Each one of us, at different times, had other responsibilities, professional or personal, that had to take precedence. There was always another Board member willing to help out on Membership, Programs or the Chronicle. The Treasurer, Libby Fay, with Martha's help, was always on her own. I am truly appreciative of this team spirit and loyalty to the club and look forward to a great 2006-2007 program year.

The new board will meet on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Please call, fax or e-mail requests or suggestions.

Frances Koncilja  
President, City Club Of Denver

## **Membership Report 2005-2006** **Craig Mills**

### **Membership**

The current membership for the City Club of Denver is 334. This number includes 142 Individual members, 133 retired members, 17 spouse memberships, and 18 members under 35. Additionally, the City Club has 8 corporate members which include 3 members per corporate membership.

Overall, we saw a slight decline in membership from 2004-2005. When we received feed back from members who did not renew their membership, it was typically because of a change in work or other schedule or the member had moved.

### **Directory**

We are encouraging members to use the City Club web site more regularly. We will have the membership directory published on the internet. In an effort to maintain the highest level of security, this entailed a major redesign of the site and therefore there was a delay in getting this information to the general membership. As an ongoing service, the directory will be available on the internet for easy access and each member will be able to update his or her information as changes occur. Members should expect a request for updated information as well as detailed instructions for accessing the directory on the internet.

### **Prospective Members**

Mailings went to all City Club Guests. Each mailing included a welcome letter as well as information about City Club. Additionally, Matt Hogan extended another invitation to all Denver Active 20-30 members to join during a presentation to the group.

### **New Members**

Each new member was sent a welcome letter and City Club information upon joining City Club. Additionally, on March 29<sup>th</sup> we hosted a new member reception in conjunction with the Brown Palace. Over 15 people attended the reception and we were able to pass on some history of the City Club and learn about our newest members.

### **2006-07 Initiatives**

With your help we would like to tackle some initiatives that are critical for the continued vibrancy of the City Club of Denver. Please keep an eye on requests for your continued involvement, as your help will be greatly appreciated this fall!

First of all, we will be undertaking a major task when the directory is available on the internet. While we are creating this valuable resource please keep us abreast of your contact information and do not hesitate to contact the membership committee if you need help with this new area of our web site.

Secondly, we would like to strive for greater member retention in 2006. We would like to see greater interaction with members who

are not renewing. Through greater contact we would like to identify ways in which to provide greater value to our members and increase member retention.

Finally, we will be more diligent in our efforts to rely on the members of the committee and other City Club members to handle badges, guest sign in, and to welcome members and guests to the weekly luncheons. That being said, if you are interested in becoming a working member of this committee please contact me at [TCMills@aol.com](mailto:TCMills@aol.com). We will be meeting during the summer!

Thanks to City Club members who referred potential members. A special thank you to Rebecca Grabler from the Symphony who helped with the badges, and thank you to fellow board members for their continued support and hard work.

## **City Club Program Committee Report** **2005-2006 program year** **Co-chairs: Steve Wright and Jack Maloney**

For the City Club program season from September, 2005, through May 9, 2006, attendance has averaged 73, less than in the preceding year. As the accompanying list shows, attendance has ranged from a high of 167 (for Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation) to a low of 38 (for the program by the executive director of Great Outdoors Colorado). Mayor Hickenlooper's audience was barely half of the 260 he had attracted two years earlier as he began his term.

The year began with robust attendance, averaging 100 at the first five programs. After that, attendance diminished. Appearances by leaders of some of Denver's foremost cultural institutions—the Museum of Nature and Science, the Botanic Gardens, the Colorado Symphony, and the Denver Center Theatre Company— attracted thin audiences.

The five top-drawing speakers for the year to date have all been present or past elected or appointed public officials. Interestingly, two long-out-of-office United States senators attracted larger audiences than did a sitting senator. Future program committees may wish to consider whether efforts to provide diverse programming should be reduced in favor of a steady lineup of political figures and public-issue programs. With a general election in the fall of 2006, political contests and ballot issues will of course dominate the early weeks of the coming program season.

Participation by members in Program Committee activities during the year has been low. Wider participation by members in proposing and arranging programs is desirable, and all members are encouraged to become involved as the Program Committee organizes itself and begins planning the coming season's programs.

Taking a "half-empty" view of attendance, even if all of the 71 who attended the average program were City Club members (they were not, of course; the 71 includes some guests), then the rest of the club's 350 members did not attend. In other words, almost 80% of the members stayed away from the average program.

Business obligations, health considerations, and many other factors may of course prevent attendance. But members who find themselves repeatedly choosing not to attend because they consider the programs uninteresting could make a valuable contribution to the Club's success by becoming involved in the Program Committee's activities and contributing their suggestions for programs that they would find more attractive and innovative.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Sep. 6	Mayor John Hickenlooper	135
Sep. 13	Michael Bennet, DPS superintendent	106
Sep. 20	Referenda C & D panel: Romanoff, Stengel	86
Sep. 27	Hank Brown	93
Oct. 4	Gov. Owens	82
Oct. 11	Pat Grant, National Western Stock Show & Rodeo	39
Oct. 18	Marilee Utter, transit-oriented development	67
Oct. 25	Vince Matthews, Director, Colorado Geological Survey	46
Nov. 1	Max Wycisk, President, Colorado Public Radio	65
Nov. 8	Rick Ashton, Denver City Librarian	51
Nov. 15	John Swartout, GOCO executive director	38
Nov. 22	Kent Thompson, Artistic Director, DCTC	55
Nov. 29	No Meeting	
Dec. 6	Economic update—Tucker Hart Adams	86
Dec. 13	Sen. Ken Salazar	117
Dec. 20	James Grafton Rogers Award program	48
Jan. 3	Congresswoman Diana DeGette	86
Jan. 10	Will Shafroth, Executive Director, Colorado Conservation Trust	58
Jan. 17	Richard Celeste, Colorado College president	77
Jan. 24	Patricia Calhoun, <i>Westword</i> editor	64
Jan. 31	Gary Hart, former U.S. Senator	119
Feb. 7	Dr. Tom Noel, historian	57
Feb. 14	David Miller, President, The Denver Foundation	52
Feb. 21	Michael Fine, Canadian Consul General	45
Feb. 28	Karen Mathis, ABA president-elect	53
Mar. 7	George Sparks, President, Denver Museum of Nature & Science	54
Mar. 14	John Scully, CEO, Denver Botanic Gardens	58
Mar. 21	legislative roundtable	91
Mar. 28	Rabbi Steven Foster, Congregation Emanuel	54

Apr. 4	“Colorado Economic Futures” panel	57
Apr. 11	Tim Wirth	122
Apr. 18	Congressman Mark Udall	72
Apr. 25	Ruth Wright, Machu Picchu	60
May 2	Brian Klipp: Denver’s Emerging Civic Architecture	68
May 9	Doug Adams, Colorado Symphony President	44
May 16	Richard Moe, President, NTHP	167
May 23	No Meeting	
May 30	Michelle Barron, Avian flu	72
Jun. 6	Annual meeting/ Mayor Pena, Immigration Issues	

### *Treasurer’s Report 2005-2006* *Libby Fay, Treasurer*

As of April 30, 2006 the City Club had approximately \$33,500 in bank accounts and certificates of deposit. The financial reports through April 30, 2006 show an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$9,858 and it is anticipated that there will be a small excess by the end of the fiscal year.

The 2005-06 fiscal year differs from the prior year in some significant areas. Primarily the current year financial statements and budget do not include any expenses for an executive director and it does not include any sponsor income, other than Channel 8 sponsorship. In the prior year these were budgeted at \$25,000 each. The website is going to be much more effective and the City Club will incur a cost of \$5,000 to make it more useful.

Membership revenues are approximately 5% higher than the prior year-to-date amount and are 2% less than the budgeted amount as of April 30, 2006. Luncheon revenues are down approximately 3% from the prior year, but the luncheon expense is also down, so these offset one another in terms of operating results. The member reserved lunch cost was set at approximately the amount charged by the Brown Palace for 2005-06 and non-member lunches contribute to the operating results. The Board has investigated other possible luncheon locations and has found that the Brown Palace has the best pricing for the level of facilities used by the City Club.

Channel 8 sponsorships have reached a total of \$4,500 and no more are expected, causing a projected negative budget variance of \$4,500 in that category for the year. The City Club has been invoiced for and has paid Channel 8 \$5,100 so far for this year and it is expected that Channel 12 will invoice the City Club for \$800. Channel 8 is allowed to bill \$344 for 24 programs so an amount of \$8,256 has been budgeted for the 2005-06 fiscal year. The Board feels that having the Channel 8 broadcasts is of significant benefit to the City Club.

Other cost savings have resulted from having no administrative assistant and no non-contract staff labor, which were budgeted at a combined \$6,400 for the 2005-06 fiscal year. This has resulted in more work by the committees, president and Board. No directory was printed this year but one will be made available soon. This has meant that new members since November 2004 have not yet been included in a directory. The bimonthly

Chronicles have also reduced costs. The Board encourages members to elect to receive the Chronicle and postcards electronically to save on printing, administrative and postage costs.

Overall the financial results will be within the budget, but the Channel 8 broadcasts are not fully funded through sponsorships. Membership levels need to be sustained.

**2005-2006 Special Events Annual Report**  
**Nancy Widmann, Special Events Chairman**

City Club hosted three special events during the 2005-2006 year:

**1. The Colorado Shakespeare Festival.**



During summer 2005, City Club members attended a Colorado Shakespeare Festival performance of *Twelfth Night or What You Will* in Boulder. The evening began with a tour of the festival facilities and

a picnic supper on the CU campus grounds. Last year's Special Events Chairman, Jack Maloney, organized this event.

**2. National Western Stock Show & Rodeo.**

City Club members and guests enjoyed a special behind-the-scenes walking tour of the National Western Complex on January 20, 2006. The group attended an afternoon performance of the Rodeo following the tour. The National Western Stock Show celebrated its 100th year in 2006. The tour offered an opportunity to better understand expansion plans and/or change-of-location decisions facing this venerable Denver institution.



**3. Body Worlds 2, Denver Museum of Nature & Science.**



City Club members and guests met at the museum for a tour of *Body Worlds 2* on March 14, 2006, during the first week of its Denver run. Dr. Bridget C. Coughlin, the museum's Curator of Human Health, gave the City Club group an introduction to the exhibition. The group then toured *Body Worlds 2* with audio cassette guides.

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS**

**2005-2006 Sponsors:**

Isaacson, Rosenbaum, Woods & Levy, P.C.

The Mossa Group at Piper Jaffray

Koncilja & Associates, P.C.

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