



## Mission Statement

The mission of the Denver Women’s Commission is to promote the social, economic, and political quality of life in Denver by assisting women in the attainment of equality and full opportunity.

The Commission advocates for women. It empowers women through coalition building and disseminating information and sharing community resources. The Commission monitors and recommends legislation and proposed policy changes affecting women.

### PURPOSE

- To encourage women to participate in the political and civic processes
- To recommend procedures, programs or legislation to promote and ensure equal rights and opportunity for women
- To inform women’s organizations about proposed legislation
- To research areas of current interest to women

Agency for Human Rights and Community Relations  
 Denver Women’s Commission  
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 Department 1102  
 Denver, Colorado 80202



## CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

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@DWC360

Denver Women’s Commission

# THE DENVER WOMEN'S COMMISSION LINKS WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS AND DENVER CITY GOVERNMENT.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### HISTORY

On March 20, 1984, Mayor Federico Peña held a public forum on women's issues.

Many of the 300 people who attended supported formation of a local women's commission.

Councilwomen Cathy Reynolds and Nieves McIntire sponsored the ordinance which established the Commission in March 1985.

### STRUCTURE

The Denver Women's Commission is part of the City of Denver's Agency for Human Rights and Community Relations.

Fifteen volunteers serve on the Commission – twelve women and three men. The fifteen Commissioners are representative of the diversity of the Denver community and includes two City employees.

Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council. The Commission is staffed by a Director and receives support from the Agency for Human Rights and Community Relations. One member serves on a agency-wide inter-commission Advisory Board.

- 1997  
Conducted and published citizen survey "Listening to Denver Women"
- 1998  
Reviewed and publicized state legislation affecting women
- 1999  
Developed Denver Women's Commission web site
- 2000  
Served on advisory committee for the Women's Foundation's "Status of Women in Colorado" report
- 2001  
Founding member of Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
- 2002-2005  
Chaired the Colorado Social Legislation Committee
- 2006  
Hosted Exhibit "700 American Women Who Changed the World"  
On Steering Committee which revitalized the Colorado Coalition for Girls
- 2007  
Published on website in English and Spanish:  
*Resource Guide for Monolingual Spanish-Speaking Women*
- 2009  
Advocated for, and serve as an agency liaison to, the new State Economic Opportunity Poverty Reduction Task Force
- 2010  
Coauthored "A Picture of Poverty in Denver"
- 2011  
Began using Facebook and Twitter

## CURRENT GOALS

- Make Denver the Best City for Women
- Build participation in and awareness of women-related issues
- Support and advocate for public policy that empowers women, promotes equality, and increases opportunities and the quality of life
- Foster strategic alliances and partnerships with groups that have common objectives
- Issue monthly newscards highlighting issues and events of interest to women

## 2011 COMMISSIONERS

Caitlin Quander, Chair  
Christy Morris, Vice Chair  
Eric Gonzales, Secretary  
Dolores Atencio  
Kathy Bacon  
Mary Jane Cassalia  
Jane Frances Echeozo  
Marcia Helfant  
Ursula Null.  
Michele Ostrander  
Toni Panetta  
Mayra Rosa  
Brandi Shigley  
James Smithwick  
*Commissioner Emeritus:*  
Sunni Rogers