

Colleen Sawyer, Broomfield

Colleen Sawyer has been an advocate for culture in Broomfield for over twenty years. She moved to Broomfield in 1978 and almost immediately began volunteering on a variety of city/county task forces and committees. In 2001, Colleen was selected to join the newly formed Broomfield County Cultural Council and she played a vital role in the process of creating the Broomfield cultural master plan which is called ***Creative Broomfield***. Colleen participated in the process as a visionary, always looking to the future and how Broomfield could cultivate and sustain a vibrant cultural landscape.

She then went on to serve with the Cultural Council until 2007. As a member of the Cultural Council, Colleen participated in the allocation of public dollars for cultural facilities and programs through the SCFD Tier III grant process and the Broomfield Arts, Culture and Science grant awards. She was also on the 2005 ***Creative Broomfield*** Progress Report Task Force.

During her time on the Council, Colleen was sensitive to how organizations were meeting the objectives outlined in ***Creative Broomfield***. She was also extremely helpful to organizations as she assisted them in understanding how they could become sustainable. Colleen was a champion for diversity and advocating for multi-cultural organizations as well as those organizations providing programs and services for the underserved.

When her term expired with the Cultural Council, Colleen was appointed to the Public Art Committee. She has been very supportive of involving Broomfield citizens in such projects as the Community Mural Project. As a member of the Public Art Committee, Colleen participates in the selection of public art pieces to be purchased or exhibited in the art on loan program called ***Art for Awhile***.

But Colleen's volunteering goes beyond the cultural community. Colleen is also on the Library Board in Broomfield as well as the Friends of the Library Board, the nonprofit fundraising arm. She participates in many community events like Broomfield Days and as an avid supporter of cultural programs, she will speak to anyone who will listen regarding the need for arts in Broomfield.

Colleen is passionate about classic rock and roll music and saw the Beatles in Detroit in 1964 and ticket cost \$6. She knows almost all the songs from the 60's and 70's and will break out in song if slightly encouraged.

Biography

Colleen Sawyer was born in Michigan and moved to Colorado in 1976. She moved to Broomfield in 1978. She graduated from Central Michigan University with a B.A. in Education and received her Masters Degree in Literacy from C.U. Boulder.

Colleen was influenced by her 4th grade teacher who also wrote children's books. This teacher inspired Colleen to become a teacher. Colleen has continued to stay in touch with this teacher who still writes books. Every time she publishes a new book, she sends Colleen an autographed copy.

Colleen taught in the Adams 12 School District for thirty years, twenty-six as a literacy specialist. She retired in 2004 and continues to work part-time with the district. She is affectionately known as "The Literacy Queen" at the school district. She has been and continues to be extremely effective in helping children who are struggling in reading or writing.

There is a brick in front of the library in Broomfield that says "Colleen Sawyer-she inspires children to read".

Colleen has been a volunteer on several different Broomfield City/County task forces and committees for the past twenty years.