

Kathryn Spuhler

It is an honor and privilege for the Douglas County Commissioners and the Douglas County Cultural Council to nominate Kathryn Spuhler for the 2009 Rex Morgan Award.

For nine years, from 1999 to 2008, Kathy served on the Douglas County Cultural Council and as Council Chair from 2001 until she elected to end her final term at the conclusion of 2008.

It was Kathy's inspired, forward-thinking that moved the Cultural Council from its statutory focus on the distribution of SCFD Tier III funds to an organization that was instrumental in forging the cultural identity of Douglas County.

Through her leadership and working collaboratively with dozens of community groups and hundreds of citizens, Kathy not only co-led the Council's creation and Commissioner approval of the Douglas County Cultural Plan in 2002, she co-led the 2008 update of the Cultural Plan. This plan continues to be the roadmap for our arts, science and cultural heritage decision-making in Douglas County.

Kathy spearheaded the countywide public art project, *Art Encounters*TM, launched in 2008 and now in its second year. The idea is that Douglas County's sculpture garden encompasses the entire County and that to fully experience it, one must travel the County. This project has been enthusiastically embraced by our County arts community and our residents.

She led our successful County efforts to pass the SCFD reauthorization. She approached this challenge with great energy and a positive attitude.

She has been professionally and personally supportive and involved significantly during her entire adult life in the support of arts organizations region-wide.

Kathy's leadership has been invaluable to Douglas County's Cultural Affairs initiatives and will be a model for arts advocacy and civic engagement in Douglas County for decades to come. Her dedication as a citizen leader to further the arts, culture, heritage and science in Douglas County is sincerely missed by all those in whose hands she left the implementation of the work that began under her leadership.

Kathy is so deserving of the Rex Morgan award. She exhibits the heart and soul of the Rex Morgan Award intent. The opportunity for her to receive this historically significant award would be an honor to her and for all of Douglas County. Thank you most sincerely for your consideration.