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Mizel Arts and
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**JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center Hires New General Manager to Oversee All Arts,
Culture and Community Programming**

*New team will lead programming for the Mizel Arts and Culture Center and Staenberg-
Loup Jewish Community Center*

DENVER, Colo., August 10, 2021 – The [Staenberg – Loup Jewish Community Center](#) (JCC Denver) has hired Richard “Rich” Cowden as the new General Manager of the [Mizel Arts and Culture Center](#) overseeing arts, culture and community programming at the Mizel Arts and Culture Center and the JCC Denver. The new position was created to provide the community with a more cohesive team that will deliver first-rate experiences to a wide range of participants. The Mizel Arts and Culture Center has also hired new staff to support the new department.

“Now is the perfect time to merge the engagement department with the Mizel Arts and Culture Center so all arts, culture and community programming flow through one department instead of multiple,” said Stephanie Herm, chief operating officer of the JCC Denver. “We are excited for Rich and his team to dive into new programming for the fall and winter months, and to carry on the legacies of our existing programs like the Neustadt Jewish Arts, Author, Movies and Music Festival (JAAMM Fest) in October, the Denver Jewish Film Festival in February, the ongoing Jewish Baby University, among others.”

Most recently, and for the last three years, Cowden was the executive director of Colorado Conservatory of Dance. Prior to that, he worked for Castleton University in Vermont for four years in a variety of arts-focused positions including coordinator of graduate programs in arts administration, director of the arts and assistant professor of theatre arts. He has been working in the arts for over 30 years. Cowden has directed more than 70 plays in his career and is also an actor.

Cowden graduated Cum Laude from Colorado Mesa University with a Bachelor of Arts with a music theatre concentration and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Ohio University School of Theatre with a Master of Fine Art.

ABOUT JCC MIZEL ARTS AND CULTURE CENTER

As one of the Rocky Mountain region’s premier arts organizations, the [JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center](http://www.jccdenver.org/arts-culture) illuminates the human experience through creative and cultural programs in the performing, visual, cinematic and literary arts for the Jewish community and the Denver community at-large. The Mizel Arts and Culture Center is a Tier II member of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) and is guided by a mission that is focused specifically on arts and cultural programs. A variety of festivals are offered throughout the year including Denver Jewish Film Festival, JAAMM Fest (Jewish Arts, Authors, Movies and Music Fest), and ReelAbilities Film Festival. The JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located at 350 S. Dahlia Street in Denver. For more information, visit www.jccdenver.org/arts-culture or call 303-316-6360.

ABOUT STAENBERG – LOUP JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

The [Staenberg – Loup Jewish Community Center](http://www.jccdenver.org) (JCC Denver) serves the metro-Denver area through educational, social, cultural, fitness, sports and other programs that are rooted in Jewish values. The JCC Denver’s mission is to create a vibrant and inclusive family and social gathering place, guided by these timeless Jewish values. The JCC Denver’s four program areas focus on connection, community and well-being and include: a robust fitness, sports, tennis and aquatic center; Early Childhood Engagement, including an Early Learning School and a variety of programs for families; the Mizel Arts and Culture Center which offers Jewish Arts, Authors, Movies & Music Festival (JAAMM Fest), Denver Jewish Film Festival, and ReelAbilities Film Festival; summer camps including Ranch Camp and Camp Shai; engagement programming for teens, young adults, seniors and the LGBTQIA+ community. The JCC Denver is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located at 350 S. Dahlia Street in Denver. For more information, visit www.jccdenver.org, like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/jccdenver) and [Instagram @jccdenver](https://www.instagram.com/jccdenver) or call (303) 399-2660.

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