

CITY COUNCIL
City and County of Denver

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To Whom It May Concern:

The genius of the Milestones Project is that it appeals to both the heart and the head. The heart-tugging photos of children in all their beauty and innocence is only matched by the cognitive realization that people from different cultures share so much in common.

Richard and Michele Steckel have poured their hearts into creating a magnificent set of photographic displays in which pictures are truly worth thousands of words. Milestones, Precious, Wise at Heart and, now, Shared Joys and Sorrows are terrific mechanisms for communicating the importance of cultural understanding and togetherness.

Like many urban areas, metro Denver has grown in diversity and now hosts people from all over the world. This diversity brings with it many challenges in terms of cultural understanding and conflict. The impersonal, anonymous nature of many interactions among residents, from road rage to political rantings about the negative impacts of immigrants, calls for a subtle, non-confrontational response—the kind of enlightenment created by Richard and Shelley's displays.

The photographic displays that we have hosted at the Denver International Airport, Denver Public Library and Colorado Convention Center have been applauded for both their art and their message. Some of the displays have been kept up much longer than planned due to popular demand.

Metro Denver and other cities can only benefit from increased exposure to the exhibits created by Richard and Shelley. I heartily recommend their use and display in any setting where compassion and humanity are important values.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Linkhart".

Doug Linkhart
City Councilman At-Large