



HISTORY *Colorado*



ANNUAL REPORT 2012/2013



Visitors to the History Colorado Center take a break outside the Destination Colorado exhibit.

MISSION

History Colorado inspires generations to find wonder and meaning in our past and to engage in creating a better Colorado.

VISION

History Colorado cultivates the most well-informed, engaged citizenry in the nation who understand the present in the context of the past and who work together to build a better Colorado.

OUR GOALS

To inspire a love of, connection to, and engagement in Colorado and the state's history

To provide excellent stewardship of Colorado's past through our collections

To build an efficient, effective, and financially robust organization to ensure our sustainability into the future

On the cover:

The History Colorado Center, celebrating its first year, and History Colorado's regional sites offer memorable experiences to schoolkids, families, tourists, adult learners, preservationists, and other visitors of all ages.

Top, second from left, and far right photos by Cora Kemp.

All images are from the collections of History Colorado unless otherwise noted.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO AND STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER



John F. Kennedy once said, “Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.” It’s our job and our joy to bring Colorado’s past to life as we explore the challenges and achievements of today. And what engages students, visitors, and communities in meaningful experiences with Colorado’s heritage is how we plan for the future. With the History Colorado Center’s first year under our belt, we see the reward of our efforts in the many new faces in our museum on a daily basis. Our dedicated staff, board, and volunteer corps—along with our individual, community, corporate, and foundation partners—brought the History Colorado Center’s inaugural year to life.

Along with the center’s Phase II opening of our *Living West* exhibit and programs at our doorstep, we’ll again feature major traveling shows—this year coming from the American Museum of Natural History and the American Anthropological Association.

As we continue on the course we’ve set, our staff and partners are also instrumental in bringing programs like new digital resources for educational outreach and for planned growth of our regional museums, like the upcoming \$2.4 million expansion of the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose. In addition, they are broadening awareness of the positive statewide impact of our Preservation Programs through the State Historical Fund and the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

It’s been an exciting year, one for which we’ve garnered both local and national recognition. What do these accomplishments and accolades mean? They tell us that we’re on the right path, and they push us to keep moving toward an exciting, educational, robust, and sustainable tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward C. Nichols".

Edward C. Nichols
President and CEO, History Colorado
State Historic Preservation Officer

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



I’m happy to join Ed Nichols—who has led History Colorado’s very talented, high-performing staff through an exciting six years—in introducing this year’s Annual Report. You’re likely familiar with the story of how our organization, which we no longer call a “Society,” left an inadequate building at Thirteenth and Broadway to make way for the Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center, found a new home one block south, and, with critical support from the State and many others, built the magnificent History Colorado Center. Along the way, History Colorado transformed. It became a much more relevant, important cultural institution in the Denver metro area and throughout the state.

History Colorado’s Board of Directors played a key role in this story, providing guidance, overseeing many facets of a complicated project, and helping secure the necessary funds. Indeed, the board has always been comprised of talented, dedicated people, many of whom have also been loyal financial supporters. But it didn’t take long after the new center opened to realize that we needed to reexamine the board’s functioning to ensure that it played its part in our ongoing success and well-being.

In addition to its own increased commitment of support, the board is focused on the importance of the private sector to supplement the longstanding support we receive from the State of Colorado and to help provide funding for exhibits, programs, and services that will continue to engage Coloradans and visitors. The board has also adopted term limits and other “best practices,” reduced its size, and committed to having its membership reflect even better our fabulous state.

History Colorado and its board are on the march together, and our members and other supporters will remain key companions on that journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim McCotter".

Jim McCotter
Chairman of the Board, History Colorado

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The multiple award-winning History Colorado Center welcomed more than 132,000 museum visitors, 51,000 event guests, and 5,000 researchers.
- More than 32,000 K-12 students from 600 schools took part in education programs at the History Colorado Center.
- A new School Bus Fund and Wells Fargo School Bus Endowment are enabling improved access to the History Colorado Center for students from Title I schools.
- Education outreach programs reached more than 9,700 students through History Take Out and 16,000 through Artifact Kits, and gave 1,741 teachers professional development opportunities.
- History Colorado reached more than 6,000 students from Title I schools and provided over 1,500 experiences to at-risk students.
- The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History chose History Colorado to host an exclusive loan of *Thomas Jefferson's Bible: The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth*.



- The popular WPA-era Denver Diorama went back on display in its new location at the History Colorado Center, and the *Denver A to Z* exhibit opened with a celebratory beer-pairing dinner featuring local craft brewers.
- History Colorado partnered with The Anschutz Foundation and the Center for American Values to present *The American Soldier: From the Civil War to the War in Iraq* at the History Colorado Center along with a display highlighting Colorado's Medal of Honor recipients.
- A \$142,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services enabled collections staff to inventory, photograph, and document the more than 6,000 items stored at the Museum Support Center in Pueblo—a major step in ongoing efforts to improve physical and intellectual control of the collection.
- History Colorado's Annual Fund saw a 17% increase in new donors and greater involvement in giving events such as Colorado Gives Day and the Colorado Combined Campaign.





Photo by Cora Kemp

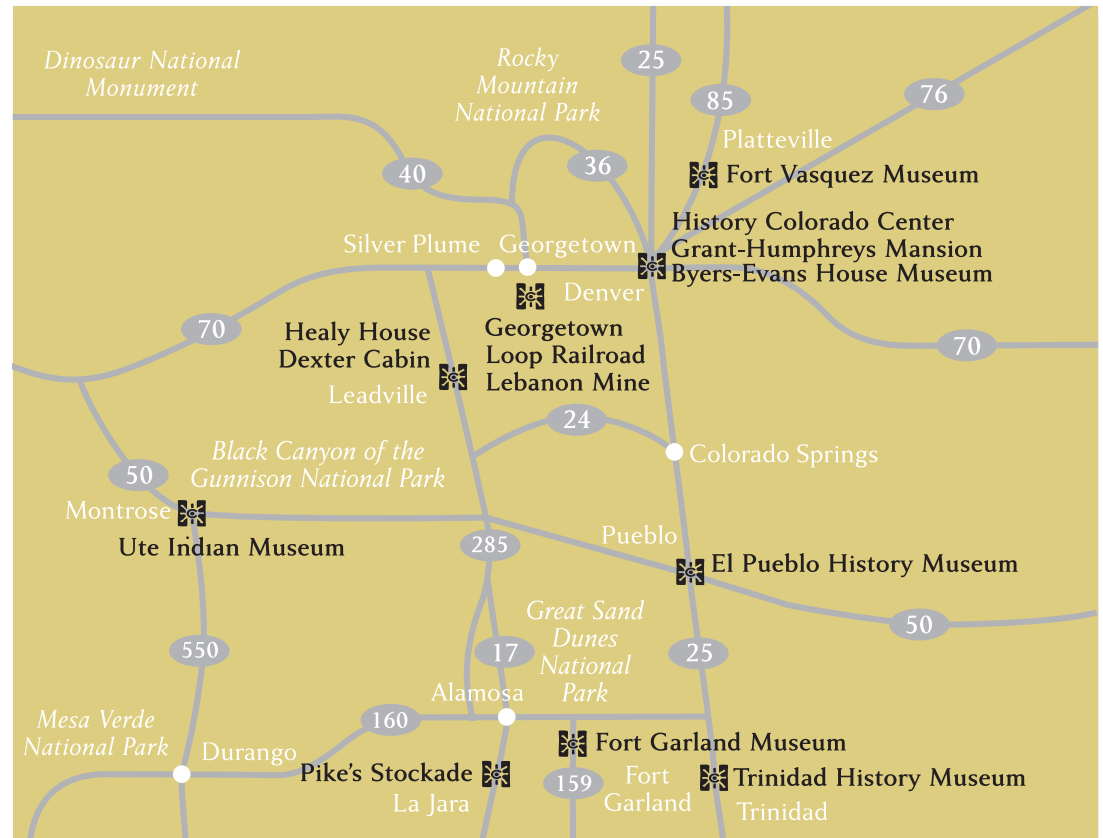
- History Colorado's Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, State Historical Fund, and Education department hosted the first dedicated hands-on festival to honor Colorado's built environment and cultural heritage.
- History Colorado expanded Cultural Heritage nominations to the National and State Registers, with a continued focus on saving threatened and underrepresented resources across the state.
- Twenty-four farms and ranches from fifteen counties joined the nearly 500 Centennial Farms—an honor for properties owned and operated continuously by the same family for 100 years or more.
- History Colorado's regional museums and historic sites saw attendance grow by more than 12% in the past year. Increased revenue from the Grant-Humphreys Mansion rental property contributed to History Colorado's long-term sustainability.
- History Colorado's El Pueblo History Museum hosted the traveling exhibit *Sisters of Loretto: 200 Years Working for Peace, Acting for Justice*, highlighting the order's contributions in Colorado and New Mexico.
- Through the generosity of the Josephine H. Miles Trust, History Colorado acquired the magnificent bedroom suite commissioned by H.A.W. Tabor for his wife Baby Doe on their honeymoon. The couple used the elaborately carved bed and dresser in their Denver home.



2012–2013 ATTENDANCE

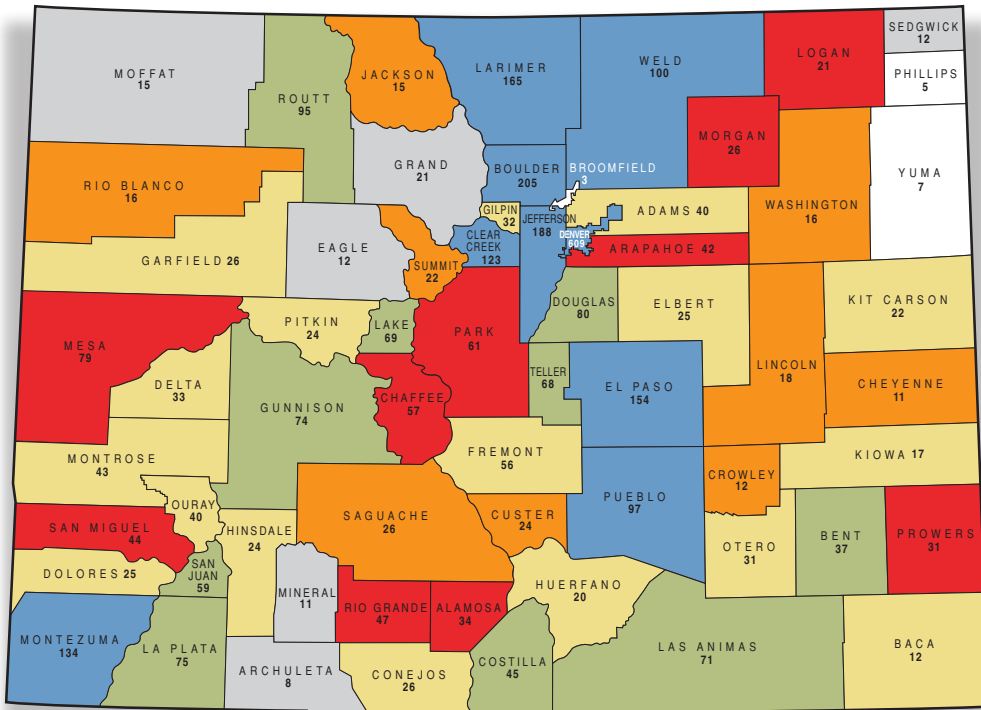
History Colorado owns and operates historic sites and museums in communities throughout the state.

History Colorado Center		191,525
Byers-Evans House		16,931
El Pueblo History Museum		30,870
Fort Garland Museum		11,188
Fort Vasquez Museum		7,077
Georgetown Loop Railroad®		107,297
Grant-Humphreys Mansion		19,808
Healy House/Dexter Cabin		4,402
Trinidad History Museum		11,706
Ute Indian Museum		8,305
TOTAL	 	409,109



THE STATE HISTORICAL FUND

TOTAL GRANT DOLLARS AWARDED BY COUNTY FROM PROGRAM INCEPTION THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2013



Number of grants awarded indicated by numbers

FISCAL YEAR 2013

Grants awarded | 119

Total value of those grants | \$6,066,442

Grants awarded since program's inception | 3,972

Total value of those grants | \$256,303,348

For more information, visit:

www.HistoryColorado.org/grants/grants

Through the State Historical Fund, History Colorado continues to help organizations and communities preserve their heritage. Every year, the program receives a portion of the total state tax revenues generated by limited-stakes gaming in the towns of Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek. The Fund is one of the most significant forces behind the preservation of Colorado history and a catalyst for strengthening communities statewide.

Projects affecting multiple counties are not represented.

Due to a new formula for tallying the total number of successful grants from SHF's inception, some numbers may vary from those reported last year.



HISTORY COLORADO FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2012–2013

SUPPORT & REVENUE SOURCE	HISTORY COLORADO	ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION	FY 2012–13 TOTAL
Limited Gaming Revenue	\$6,949,951	\$12,799,763	\$19,749,714
Federal Grants	\$274,299	\$732,134	\$1,006,433
Museum Admission and Rental Fees	\$1,735,950	—	\$1,735,950
Sales of Goods and Services	\$1,333,257	\$55,000	\$1,388,257
Donations	\$543,212	—	\$543,212
Interest Income	\$30,000	\$219,868	\$249,868
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$10,866,669	\$13,806,765	\$24,673,434

EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAM

State Historical Fund Preservation Grant Program	—	\$10,784,207	\$10,784,207
Regional Museum and Sites	\$3,239,535	—	\$3,239,535
Museum Operations	\$4,137,250	—	\$4,137,250
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation	—	\$1,610,005	\$1,610,005
State Historical Fund	—	\$1,412,553	\$1,412,553
Administrative and Support Services	\$1,766,380	—	\$1,766,380
Restricted Gift/Grant Projects	\$591,647	—	\$591,647
Membership	\$485,157	—	\$485,157
Development	\$504,025	—	\$504,025
Museum Stores	\$142,675	—	\$142,675
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	\$10,866,669	\$13,806,765	\$24,673,434

HIGH LEVEL SUMMARY

SUPPORT & REVENUE SOURCE

Limited Gaming Revenue	\$19,749,714
Federal Grants	\$1,006,433
Earned Income	\$3,917,287
Total Revenue	<hr/>
	\$24,673,434

EXPENDITURES

	GRANTS	OPERATIONS	TOTAL
State Historical Fund Preservation Grant Program	\$10,784,207	—	\$10,784,207
History Colorado Operations	—	\$10,866,669	\$10,866,669
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation	—	\$1,610,005	\$1,610,005
State Historical Fund	—	\$1,412,553	\$1,412,553
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	\$10,784,207	\$13,889,227	\$24,673,434

MAKE HISTORY COLORADO! CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



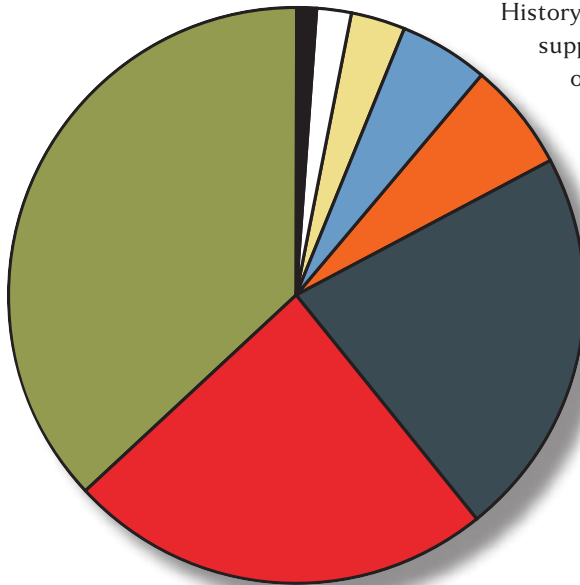
After four years and an abundance of community support, History Colorado is within \$500,000 of reaching our goal for the *Make History Colorado!* capital campaign.

We selected *Make History Colorado!* as the theme for our first major campaign because we were asking the community to do just that. Our collective effort has made history—not only for this organization, but also for the Denver cultural community and our state. Contributions from our donors and partners have enabled us to achieve more than we could have dreamed in the 134 years since our organization’s founding.

Since opening the History Colorado Center in April 2012, we have completed Phase I of our core exhibits plan and hosted two traveling exhibits; we have also developed new history education programs and integrated environmental education programs, as well as plans for digital learning environments that will expand our reach across the state and beyond. Our Phase II exhibit, *Living West*, opens November 23, 2013, and Phase III is now in development.

History Colorado’s new exhibits and programming have attracted attention and funding support from national organizations such as the National Science Foundation, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Smithsonian Institution, in addition to transformative gifts from the Colorado philanthropic community.

History Colorado is grateful for your generous support.



FUNDING SOURCE	% TOTAL COMMITTED
● Foundations	37%
● Individuals	24%
● Family Foundations	22%
● Corporate Foundations	6%
● Estates	5%
● Corporate	3%
○ Federal Grants	2%
● Organizations	1%

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

History Colorado's community partners enabled us to achieve goals for 2012–13 including a new exhibit about Denver, traveling exhibits, and online educational resource development. Our corporate and foundation partners also contributed toward programs to support History Colorado's future.

Our partners at BP America, with offices in Denver and Durango, helped fund the development of our new online learning environments based on stories featured in History Colorado Center exhibits. Now museum visitors, students, and educators can explore media content related to the Amache internment camp, Bent's Fort, the Lincoln Hills resort community, the town of Keota, and life at Mesa Verde. Grants from the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation and the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services provided additional support for History Colorado to develop digital resources.

A partnership with Wells Fargo helped us display the beloved diorama of early Denver now in the History Colorado Center lobby and to establish the Wells Fargo School Bus Endowment, which provides transportation reimbursements for Title I designated schools.

A grant from The Denver Foundation's Inclusiveness Project helped us present "FWD: 1963–2013," a successful civic engagement series with film, theater, and conversation examining the Civil Rights movement in 1963 and reflecting on where we are today.

In May, The Anschutz Foundation generously helped stage *The American Soldier: A Photographic Tribute—From the Civil War to the War in Iraq* at the History Colorado Center, as well as educational activities, tours, and programs across the state. Provided in partnership with the Center for American Values in Pueblo, a display featuring Colorado's Medal of Honor recipients augmented *The American Soldier*.



Freedom Singer Rutha Harris was among the performers for the series "FWD: 1963–2013," in a program exploring the role of music and the arts in the Civil Rights Movement.

Officer Henry Jones, Jr., Sue Smith, and Michael Hesse attend the opening reception for The American Soldier.

THE VOLUNTEERS OF HISTORY COLORADO

In 2012–13, 473 volunteers generously contributed 31,174 hours of service, which had a monetary value of \$686,755. The volunteers awarded twelve grants for History Colorado programs in Denver and at regional museums across the state, with a total value of \$10,792.

History Colorado volunteers come from all over the state of Colorado, serving their state and communities by telling our unique Colorado stories, preserving historic artifacts, and engaging visitors, along with their many other contributions. As History Colorado grows, we welcome the opportunity to continue to provide valuable services that benefit our community. This would not be possible without the hard work of our volunteers!



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THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL FUND DONORS

History Colorado is grateful for our many donors and giving members. Community support enables us to preserve the history of our state for present and future generations. The following have demonstrated exceptional commitment to History Colorado during our last fiscal year starting July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013. Additional gifts were made to the Colorado Historical Foundation in support of the ongoing *Make History Colorado!* capital campaign.

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WHAT'S NEXT?

In the coming year, History Colorado will bring new exhibits, experiences, and programs to audiences of all ages across the state.

As part of a statewide Centennial Commemoration of the Ludlow Massacre in 1914, our El Pueblo History Museum presents the exhibit *Children of Ludlow*, exploring this tragic event from the perspectives of the children involved.

On November 23, we launch Phase II of our exhibits program for the History Colorado Center with the opening of *Living West*. This ambitious exhibit explores the ways Coloradans have shaped and been shaped by our extraordinary environment. Through immersive environments, hands-on activities, film, theater, and artifacts, visitors travel from Mesa Verde 800 years ago to the Dust Bowl of the 1930s to today's mountains. The opening of *Living West* launches a yearlong schedule of programs, lectures, discussions, and activities around Colorado's complex environment. *Living West* is presented in partnership with Denver Water with generous support from the Gates Family Foundation.

Next summer, the History Colorado Center is proud to host *Food: Our Global Kitchen*, a major new traveling exhibit from the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Complete with a hydroponic indoor plant system and a working test kitchen, the exhibit explores the culture and science of food and is sure to appeal to everyone who eats!

In 2013 History Colorado received funding to expand the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose. Staff are working with members of the three Ute tribes as well as civic leaders and educators in Montrose to develop new exhibits, programs, and services for this remarkable museum.

Exhibits at all of our facilities come alive through programs, lectures, demonstrations, celebrations, and performances. In 2014, History Colorado leads a statewide celebration on Colorado Day, August 1st—the day Colorado achieved statehood 138 years ago.

Generous support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, BP America, Gates Family Foundation, Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, and Xcel Energy has enabled our educators to ensure that Colorado history infuses the curriculum at all grade levels and that History Colorado content reaches every classroom in the state. Our first online digital learning environments, developed in partnership with educators and the Center of the American West, go live in 2013–14.

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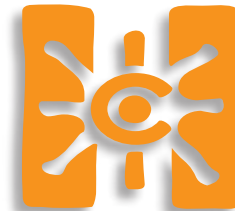
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