

LIVING WEST



HISTORY Colorado



ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014





Food: Our Global Kitchen brought an exploration of the world's food to the History Colorado Center. Photo courtesy American Museum of Natural History, New York.

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

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

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO AND STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER



The *Make History Colorado!* capital campaign is successfully behind us, and we have embarked on an exciting and challenging new mode of operations and community support with the History Colorado Center in Denver, our regional museums, the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and the statewide services of the State Historical Fund.

To that end, we opened *Living West*, the History Colorado Center's most ambitious core exhibit to date. This interactive journey takes visitors into three ecosystems

to reveal the deep connection between our region's land and its people. The Center's staff have prepared a lineup of traveling exhibits and topical programming to appeal to varied audiences and partners, having hosted the exhibits *Food: Our Global Kitchen* and *RACE: Are We So Different?* while we eagerly anticipate *The 1968 Exhibit*, opening in early 2015.

At the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose, an ambitious \$2.4 million expansion is on the horizon. At our El Pueblo Museum, we commemorated the centennial of the infamous Ludlow Massacre by opening *Children of Ludlow: Life in a Battle Zone, 1913-1914*, developed in partnership with descendants of the very people touched by that tragedy and the healing that followed. The State Historical Fund has completed a truly successful grant year with over \$9 million in preservation grants awarded across the state. These are just a few examples of the accomplishments you'll read about within these pages.

Now in its 135th year, History Colorado has affirmed its commitment to a set of core values: excellence, integrity, respect, diversity, service, collaboration, and innovation. Everything we do—at our flagship History Colorado Center and through our historic properties and preservation activities—we do with those values as guideposts. We invite you to keep joining us—at our exhibits and events, our preservation programs, and in the civic engagement we are committed to providing all our constituencies.

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

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Today, staff and board are working together harder than ever to ensure History Colorado's success and sustainability while dealing with the many challenges that come with a statewide organization with a broad reach, long legacy, and demanding mission to inspire generations to make our state better. History Colorado's mission, the values Ed Nichols has shared in his message, and our five-year Strategic Plan are especially important as we face the future.

And I can say with pride that the current board of directors has rolled up its sleeves to work with our very talented, hardworking staff to help History Colorado realize its vision of inspiring new audiences and connecting with new partners.

This past year, the key to that effort has been the new Strategic Plan. The board members have diligently guided and informed this plan with their varied talents and expertise.

Goal one of that plan is Audience Engagement: to establish History Colorado as one of the nation's most relevant and innovative cultural organizations by engaging audiences of all ages and backgrounds in discovering and celebrating Colorado.

Goal two is Stewardship: to provide excellent stewardship of a meaningful, accessible, and sustainable collection to serve audiences for generations to come. And goal three, as Ed has emphasized, is Sustainability: to secure the long-term sustainability of History Colorado's vital programs and services with a dynamic financial model based on innovation, smart business planning, diversified revenue sources, and strategic partnerships.

The strategies underpinning those goals are vital, and the board's support for them is firm. The 2013-2018 Strategic Plan is a dynamic document, to be referred to regularly (and modified if necessary) in order to encourage creative ideas while ensuring that they translate into effective exhibits, programs, and other engagement so that History Colorado continues to play its fitting role to help create a better Colorado.

Jim McCotter
Chairman of the Board, History Colorado



Living West explores ancestral Puebloans and their descendants

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Nearly 375,000 people visited History Colorado properties throughout the state.
- In November 2013, History Colorado opened *Living West*, a core exhibit that explores the living dynamics between the people of Colorado and the state's environment. The award-winning exhibit is sponsored by Denver Water with major support from the Gates Family Foundation.
- The History Colorado Center was named *True West's* "Top Western History Museum of the Year" and one of the "Top Places in Colorado to Take Kids" by *The Denver Post*.
- More than 35,000 K–12 students from 600 schools took part in education programs at the History Colorado Center. Of them, 12,000 attend Title I schools. An additional 41,000 students took part in statewide outreach programs and 1,700 teachers participated in professional development programs.
- With funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and BP America, History Colorado launched new digital learning environments based on the stories of Amache, Lincoln Hills and Bent's Fort. The environments will provide the foundation for one of the first museum-based digital badge programs for fourth, seventh, eighth and eleventh graders.
- History Colorado hosted a series of major traveling exhibitions beginning with *Food: Our Global Kitchen* in May 2014. Organized by the American Museum of Natural History in New York and sponsored locally by Whole Foods Market, the exhibit explored the intricate system of our world's food, from farm to fork.
- History Colorado hosted its first Naturalization Ceremony in February 2014, with more than 50 new citizens from 20 countries taking the oath to become American citizens on the giant Colorado map in our atrium.

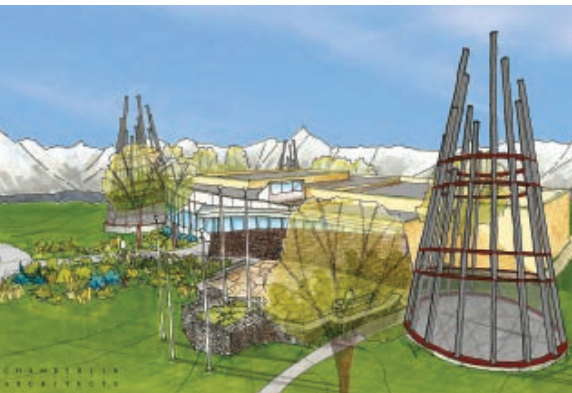
Behind the scenes at the History Colorado Center



- History Colorado collaborated with Rocky Mountain PBS on *Colorado Experience*, an eight-episode series about Colorado history. The program “Fly Girl” was recognized with a 2014 Heartland Emmy Award.
- Collections staff improved storage and documentation of History Colorado’s impressive photography collection. Last year, History Colorado provided access to more than 5,000 previously undocumented photographs and KWGN Channel 2 news footage from 1966–82.
- History Colorado’s Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center responded to more than 9,500 research requests. To further access for researchers and the general public alike, staff converted and updated the archives and library catalog into a much more user-friendly format that can be easily accessed online.
- Collections management and curatorial staff prepared thousands of images and records for the launch of History Colorado’s first public portal to the artifact and photography collections.
- In consultation with the three Ute tribes, History Colorado began planning the expansion of the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose, with completion expected in 2016.
- With sponsorship from Black Hills Energy, *Children of Ludlow: Life in a Battle Zone, 1913–1914* opened at El Pueblo History Museum to commemorate the centennial of the Ludlow Massacre. A label from the exhibit won the American Alliance of Museums’ Excellence in Exhibition Label Writing Competition.



The Ute Indian Museum expansion in Montrose



The Food: Our Global Kitchen exhibit



The Children of Ludlow exhibit



The Dexter Cabin in Leadville



The Living West exhibit



Ancestral Puebloan artifacts in the History Colorado collection



- Over the past three years, the Office of the State Archaeologist and the Preservation Planning team have worked with the National Park Service, Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal representatives and other experts on the interpretation, design and land use of the Sand Creek Massacre site near Eads. Now in its final public review, the plan is expected to be accepted in time for the 150th anniversary of the event in November 2014. The park's striking landscape provides a place to reflect on the tragedies of the past, as well as our hopes for the present and future.
- After the devastating floods in Boulder and Larimer counties in September 2013, the State Historical Fund awarded more than \$51,000 in emergency grants to stabilize historic buildings damaged by floodwaters.
- To very favorable regional response, the State Historical Fund established a Western Field Office in Durango to help support grant projects in southwestern Colorado and the regional work of other History Colorado divisions.
- History Colorado archaeologists led a survey of state lands in the Pawnee Buttes area of Weld County. Nineteen volunteers helped record 12 archaeological sites and 36 isolated finds dating from the Late Archaic through the Historic periods (1500 BC–1960 AD).
- History Colorado's first book for young readers, *A Civil War Scrapbook: I Was There Too!*, won an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History.



2013–2014 ATTENDANCE

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

History Colorado Center		174,686
Byers-Evans House		15,549
El Pueblo History Museum		26,851
Fort Garland Museum		8,316
Fort Vasquez Museum		4,164
Georgetown Loop Railroad®		103,967
Grant-Humphreys Mansion		20,776
Healy House/Dexter Cabin		2,407
Trinidad History Museum		10,047
Ute Indian Museum		8,083
TOTAL		374,846



HISTORY COLORADO FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2013–2014

SUPPORT & REVENUE BUDGET SOURCE	BUDGET HISTORY COLORADO	ACTUAL HISTORY COLORADO	BUDGET ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION	ACTUAL ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION	TOTAL BUDGET FY 2013–14 (1+3 =)
Limited Gaming Revenue (Majority)	—	—	\$18,990,232	\$18,925,057	\$18,990,232
Limited Gaming Revenue (Minority)	\$6,634,462	\$6,547,059	\$856,169	\$809,012	\$7,490,631
Federal Grants	—	—	\$843,358	\$718,724	\$843,358
Museum Admission and Rental Fees	\$1,584,514	\$1,532,199	—	—	\$1,584,514
Sales of Goods and Services	\$1,638,588	\$1,733,276	\$55,000	\$53,548	\$1,638,588
Donations/Interest Earned from Donations	\$539,713	\$369,348	—	—	\$539,713
	\$10,397,277	\$10,181,882	\$20,744,759	\$20,506,341	\$31,142,036
EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM					
State Historical Fund Preservation Grant Program	—	—	\$17,374,133	\$17,374,133	\$17,374,133
Regional Museums and Sites	\$2,129,967	\$2,158,021	—	—	\$2,129,967
Museum Operations	\$4,499,517	\$4,352,794	—	—	\$4,499,517
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation	—	—	\$1,754,527	\$1,581,284	\$1,754,527
State Historical Fund	—	—	\$1,616,119	\$1,550,944	\$1,616,119
Administrative and Support Services	\$1,628,219	\$1,727,660	—	—	\$1,628,219
History Colorado Center Maintenance	\$1,131,553	\$1,114,252	—	—	\$1,131,553
Restricted Gift/Grant Projects	—	—	—	—	—
Membership	\$320,061	\$166,272	—	—	\$320,061
Development	\$545,385	\$497,142	—	—	\$545,385
Museum Stores	\$142,575	\$165,741	—	—	\$142,575
	\$10,397,277	\$10,181,882	\$20,744,759	\$20,506,341	\$31,142,036
HIGH LEVEL SUMMARY					
SUPPORT & REVENUE SOURCE					
Limited Gaming Revenue		\$26,281,128			
Federal Grants		\$718,724			
Earned Income		\$3,688,371			
Total Revenue		\$30,688,223			
YEAR-END EXPENDITURES					
State Historical Fund Preservation Grant Program*		\$17,374,113		\$17,374,113	*Amount includes all awarded grants and actual expenditures of \$5,932,334
History Colorado Operations		—	\$10,181,882	\$10,181,882	
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation		—	\$1,581,284	\$1,581,284	
State Historical Fund		—	\$1,550,944	\$1,550,944	
		\$17,374,113	\$13,314,110	\$30,688,223	
SURPLUS					
				453,813	
				\$31,142,036	

MAKE HISTORY COLORADO! CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



This past June, History Colorado celebrated the completion of the *Make History Colorado!* capital campaign by unveiling the permanent donor wall at an event honoring all of the donors whose contributions helped transform our organization. History Colorado is grateful to the many donors whose financial commitments totaling \$22 million provided the funding needed to design and create exhibits and education programs for the History Colorado Center, as well as infrastructure and statewide outreach programs.

Make History Colorado! supports our vision for the History Colorado Center as a place of civic conversation, engagement, and inspiration. Innovative core exhibits encourage visitors to step into Colorado's stories, temporary and traveling exhibits bring opportunities for new experiences to our community, and outreach programs deepen our relationship with Coloradans across the state.

As we look forward to our future, History Colorado will build on this new foundation to inspire generations to find wonder and meaning in our past and engage in creating a better Colorado. This would not be possible without the support of the many donors to the campaign.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING HISTORY!



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Without the support of our corporate and foundation partners, we at History Colorado could never have achieved our ambitious goals for 2013–14.

November 2013 saw the opening of *Living West*, the second phase of our core exhibits at the History Colorado Center. This 7,000-square-foot experience takes audiences of all ages on a journey into the deep relationships between Colorado’s people and its land through three stories: life at Mesa Verde in the 1200s, the 1930s Dust Bowl on the southeastern plains, and today’s Rocky Mountain ecosystems. The support and partnership of Denver Water and the generous support of the Gates Family Foundation made the exhibit possible.

History Colorado formed a special partnership with Whole Foods Market to present *Food: Our Global Kitchen*, our first major traveling exhibit at the History Colorado Center. Whole Foods provided both financial and promotional support, helping spread awareness of this engaging and timely exhibit throughout the region. Along with local vendors and community partners, Whole Foods also assisted with the exhibit’s Taste Kitchen during the entire run of *Food*—giving visitors the opportunity to sample and learn about a variety of the world’s foods and cooking techniques.

Another partner—Xcel Energy’s Consumer Education division—supported community events at the History Colorado Center while educating our visitors about money- and energy-saving options for their homes. During special events, the Xcel Energy team was onsite to interact with visitors. For several months, History Colorado was home to an interactive kiosk, educating guests during every visit.

And at El Pueblo History Museum, Black Hills Energy sponsored *Children of Ludlow: Life in a Battle Zone, 1913–1914*. Developed with input from descendants of those touched by the Ludlow tragedy, this critically acclaimed and award-winning exhibit presents the experiences of the children who lived in the turbulent environment of the Ludlow tent colony.



Living West looks at the ways Coloradans have adapted to their state’s challenging ecosystems.



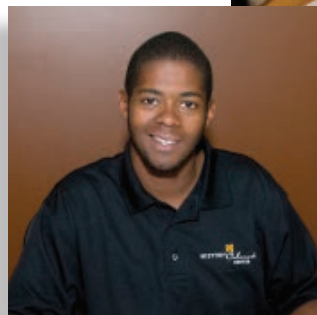
Devin Lamma and the Whole Foods Cherry Creek team treated guests to samples of Colorado cheeses at the opening event for Food: Our Global Kitchen.

THE VOLUNTEERS OF HISTORY COLORADO

In 2013–14, 464 volunteers generously contributed 33,364 hours of service, which had a monetary value of \$748,364. The volunteers awarded fourteen grants for History Colorado programs in Denver and at regional museums across the state, with a total value of \$14,999.

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, 2013, and ending on June 30, 2014. Additional gifts were made to the Colorado Historical Foundation in support of the *Make History Colorado!* capital campaign.

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Measuring snowpack in Living West

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We are grateful to those individuals who have made provisions in their wills and estate plans to help ensure the future of History Colorado. We are pleased to recognize these individuals by naming them to History Colorado's legacy society.

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Living West teaches stewardship of Colorado's mountains.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Since opening the History Colorado Center in 2012, we've strengthened our programs, created dynamic exhibits, invested in our regional sites, and seen our audiences grow. In the coming year, we'll expand our reach further while forging partnerships with organizations that share our mission to cultivate an informed citizenry engaged in creating a better Colorado.

In 2014–15, the History Colorado Center will offer a series of remarkable traveling exhibits. *RACE: Are We So Different?* is the first national exhibit to examine the biology, history, and lived experience of race. Through this exhibit, we're partnering with Denver metro organizations to host conversations about one of the most challenging topics of our time. A major exhibit from the Minnesota History Center, *The 1968 Exhibit* will evoke memories among visitors who experienced that turbulent era while provoking intergenerational reflection on a year that changed America. *Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s* will explore a period when new technologies and TV advertising led to an explosion of products that reflected—and shaped—American culture.

The regional museums continue to expand their reach in the communities they serve. Through the tireless efforts of El Pueblo History Museum staff, Puebloans feel a growing sense of ownership in *their* museum. El Pueblo will host *The Emancipation Proclamation*, a traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution. Efforts continue on the long-awaited expansion of the Ute Indian Museum, which will feature exhibits and programs developed in close consultation with the three Ute Indian tribes.

History Colorado is expanding programs to secondary school students by infusing social studies content with STEM learning that aligns with standards in a variety of areas. History Colorado will launch broadly accessible digital learning environments, letting students earn online badges as they master the content. Our collections are going digital as well. By late 2014, many of our extraordinary artifacts, photographs and video, archival materials, and even our music collection will be accessible to anyone with a computer.

Like most history museums, History Colorado has done little intentional collecting of materials post-World War II. In the coming year, we'll begin building a collection that will help our successors understand the profound changes contemporary Colorado has undergone. These new oral histories, archival materials, and artifacts will serve as the foundation for exhibits and civic engagement programs that explore our recent past and our complex present.

Families visit RACE: Are We So Different? at the History Colorado Center.



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