



History Colorado creates a better future for Colorado by inspiring wonder in our past.



Five Points Plus exhibit opening.

Building New Knowledge

History is a very human endeavor. It reminds us of our common humanity and our commitment to each other. We are so grateful to all of you who have been alongside us as we have risen to the challenges of our times. In fact, we are honored that both our membership and our volunteer base has grown during this last year. History Colorado takes our obligations very seriously: to the people of Colorado, to the pursuit of historic truth, and to building new knowledge that helps to shape our future.

Our current moment illustrates the undeniable relevance of history in our lives and in our world. Through this last year, History Colorado has shown up as a trusted resource committed to evidence-based truth telling and thoughtful civil dialogue. History is always our organizational North Star.

Throughout this latest dark chapter, History Colorado intentionally found ways to expand—rather than constrict—our presence in Colorado. We made the financial choice

to keep our staff whole, to proactively seek funding sources to overcome significant Covid-related reductions in revenue, and to expand our service to Colorado at a time when we knew our work was especially necessary. Here are just a few of the many examples of History Colorado's notable work over the last year:

- We expanded our Hands-On History programs that use fun history education to also meet the needs of working families when schools are not open.
- We digitized 1920s-era KKK ledgers from Denver that made this information much more accessible and prompted rich conversations about the legacy of racism in Colorado.
- We placed the toppled Civil War monument on display at the History Colorado Center to provide the space for safe and constructive conversations about its meaning and the role of monuments.
- We created and hosted more than twenty-five new exhibitions, including

Building Denver, Five Points Plus, Apron Chronicles, Unsilenced, and the Smithsonian Institution's ¡Pleibol! and American Democracy.

- We grew our adult education audiences with more accessible virtual programming, including our beloved speaker series Borderlands of Southern Colorado and Bold Women. Change History.
- We supported very necessary economic stimulus with \$4 million in State Historical Fund awards and \$103 million in Historic Preservation Tax Credit investment towards the preservation of Colorado communities. Every \$1 million spent on historic preservation in Colorado leads to \$1.03 million in additional spending, fourteen new jobs, and \$636,700 in increased household incomes across the state.
- We celebrated Executive Director Emeritus Steve Turner's tenure at History Colorado and welcomed new Executive Director Dawn DiPrince—the thirteenth person to serve in this role over our 142-year history.

Throughout this last year, we at History Colorado recognize how powerful it is to be a part of our beloved state, how important history is to building a beautiful and just future, and how incredible it is to do this work with all of you.

Dawn DiPrince
Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

Tamra J. Ward
Chair, Board of Directors

Board of Directors and Leadership

History Colorado Board of Directors and Leadership (As of June 30, 2021)

Tamra J. Ward (Chair)
Ellen S. Roberts (Vice Chair)
Cathey McClain Finlon (Chair Emeritus)
Marco Antonio Abarca
Luis Benitez
Cathy Carpenter Dea
Dr. Donna Lynne
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Alan Salazar
Stephen F. Sturm
Mary Sullivan
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Ann Alexander Walker (Past Chair)

Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

Dawn DiPrince

State Historian's Council (As of June 30, 2021)

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State Historian
Western Colorado University
Dr. Nicki Gonzales
Regis University
Dr. Tom Noel
University of Colorado Denver
Dr. Jared Orsi
Colorado State University
Dr. William Wei
University of Colorado Boulder

Support our mission! GiveHC.org

On the Cover:
Adri Norris (left) discusses her mural for
the *Five Point Plus* exhibit. *Diana Odem*

Mission Statement

At History Colorado, we believe in making Colorado's history accessible and in creating opportunities that connect people to Colorado and our past to cultivate an informed future. We are Colorado!

Established in 1879, History Colorado is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and an agency of the State of Colorado under the Department of Higher Education. We are the trusted leader in helping people understand what it means to be a Coloradan—by sharing powerful stories, honoring our state's treasured memories, and creating vibrant communities.

Engagement

July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021

Total Engagement

287,006

in our programs and visits to our museums and historic sites

We acknowledge that the land currently known as Colorado has been the traditional homelands of Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. We are grateful to work in partnership with the forty-eight sovereign nations who continue to call this land home. Together, we plan exhibits; collect, preserve, and interpret artifacts; do archaeological work; and create educational programs to share the history of Colorado.



Ute drummers help celebrate breaking ground for the new naturescape at the Ute Indian Museum in May 2021.
Jake Green Photography

Exhibitions

Making Connections

At our museums throughout the state, History Colorado continued to create exhibits that matter to our communities. This year, despite navigating the uncertainty of the ongoing pandemic, we invited visitors to safely explore more than twenty-five new exhibitions around the state, each crafted to offer historical perspectives that provide new insights into how we got to now.

In the run up to the presidential election, we invited visitors to connect with our most deeply held national ideals through our This is What Democracy Looks Like initiative at the History Colorado Center, enhancing the Smithsonian's wide-ranging *American Democracy* exhibition with a diverse array of complementary exhibitions, art installations, and programs.

History Colorado became a model for museums around the country when we put Colorado's toppled Civil War monument on exhibit at the History Colorado Center. Our exhibition, which creates a space to consider multiple perspectives and engage in civil conversations about the purpose and meaning of monuments, has inspired hundreds of thoughtful comments from visitors and invitations from the Smithsonian and other state history museums to share our approach.

We continued to explore the *Borderlands of Southern Colorado* with exhibitions at the History Colorado Center and the Fort Garland Museum & Cultural Center. Fort Garland's *Unsilenced*, an installation designed by the artist jetsonorama, breaks new ground by illuminating the legacy of Indigenous slavery in southern Colorado and inviting community members to add to our growing knowledge about this difficult history.

We also featured community stories with expansive impact, from *La Sierra* and *High Water Marks* at El Pueblo History Museum to the trio of *Hecho en Colorado*, *Apron Chronicles*, and *Five Points Plus* in the Ballantine Gallery at the History Colorado Center. We brought the Smithsonian's *¡Pleibol!* to Pueblo, where curators had originally

collected stories of Latino baseball, and shared the stories of women who shaped their communities in *Bold Women. Change History.* at the Center for Colorado Women's History. And we concluded the year by shining a spotlight on the communities that make up Colorado's capital city in *Building Denver* at the History Colorado Center.

New Exhibitions

Center for Colorado Women's History

*Bold Women. Change History.
The Exhibit*

Fort Garland Museum & Cultural Center

*Unsilenced: Indigenous Enslavement
in Southern Colorado*

History Colorado Center

All the Way to Freedom

*American Democracy: A Great Leap
of Faith*

*Apron Chronicles: A Patchwork of
American Recollections*

Black in Denver

Borderlands of Southern Colorado

*Building Denver: Visions of the
Capital City*

*History in the Making: Community
Mural Project*

*E Pluribus Unum/Out of Many, One:
The Appomattox Inkwell*

*Five Points Plus: Neighborhood
Memory Project*

Forty Years on the 'Fax

Hecho en Colorado

*Liberated: America Fights for
Democracy in World War II*

Makerspace: Build!

Merciless Indian Savages

The New Four Freedoms

On Guard: The Civil War Monument

Thirty Years of the State Historical Fund

We the People

Where Corners Meet

Women Behaving Badly

El Pueblo History Museum

*¡Pleibol! In the Barrios and the Big
Leagues/En los barrios y las grandes ligas*

La Sierra

*High Water Marks: Pueblo's Resilience
in the Face of Disaster*

The New Four Freedoms



BEYOND THE BALLOT

The First Amendment of the Constitution established that Congress shall make no law restricting "the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." And having their participation to electoral politics, individuals and groups with very different convictions on the streets, in back rooms, and through the media of their time—then through their newspapers and concepts before the nation. From 19th-century petitioning and mass demonstrations, to formal and informal lobbying of government officials, to electronic letter-writing campaigns, Americans have exercised this very basic democratic right to shape their country beyond the ballot box.

Petitioning

The struggle of petitioning our nation, along with others, has shaped our history and our political beliefs and rights. While petitioning has been used by individuals and groups to bring attention to their needs, it has also been used to bring about change in laws, policies, and programs. Petitioning is a powerful tool for citizens to express their views and influence government action.

Visitors look at items in the *American Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith* exhibit.

Community Museums and Sites

We are proud that our community museums worked creatively and collaboratively to respond to the unique needs of our communities during this challenging time, uplifting History Colorado's mission.

Community Connections

El Pueblo History Museum worked with other community nonprofits to distribute over 300 bags of school supplies to families in need. In partnership with the Southwest Migrant Education Program, the **Fort Garland Museum & Cultural Center** became a distribution location for masks, hand sanitizer, and other PPE.

Accessible Online Programs

Ute Indian Museum and **El Pueblo History Museum** supported children and families by delivering high-quality Hands-On History programs by creating take-home kits and developing online programs. The **Center for Colorado Women's History** modified their popular Writing Your Life course for older adults to a virtual format.

Outdoor Spaces

In collaboration with San Luis Valley Great Outdoors, **Pike's Stockade** in Conejos County reopened to the public providing access to walking and biking trails. **Ute Indian Museum** unveiled an outdoor classroom, which is stage one of an outdoor education space and nature playscape park in partnership with Montrose County.





Community members tour
*Unsilenec: Indigenous
Enslavement in Southern
Colorado* at the Fort Garland
Museum & Cultural Center
with artist jetsonorama.
Kim Marquez Photography

State Historical Fund

A Focused Strategy

In the wake of an extraordinary year, staff at the State Historical Fund (SHF) responded to events with a new sense of urgency for how we distribute grants around Colorado, and who benefits. Limited Gaming Revenue, from which SHF is solely funded, took a major hit during the pandemic. Still, SHF staff and our partners managed not only to continue our work to preserve treasured places from our past, but to reflect on our priorities going forward.

Historic preservation has not equally, or equitably, served all Colorado communities. To start addressing this, the State Historical Fund took the bold initiative this year to permanently prioritize funding to projects that demonstrate a positive benefit to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities.

Fortunately, gaming in Colorado has roared back to life in 2021, and the SHF can distribute almost \$8 million this year. Over the next thirty years, we look to continue leveraging the SHF and historic preservation for the benefit of all Coloradans through our commitment to the sustainable economic, social, and environmental development of the state.

Grants awarded statewide
(July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021)

105

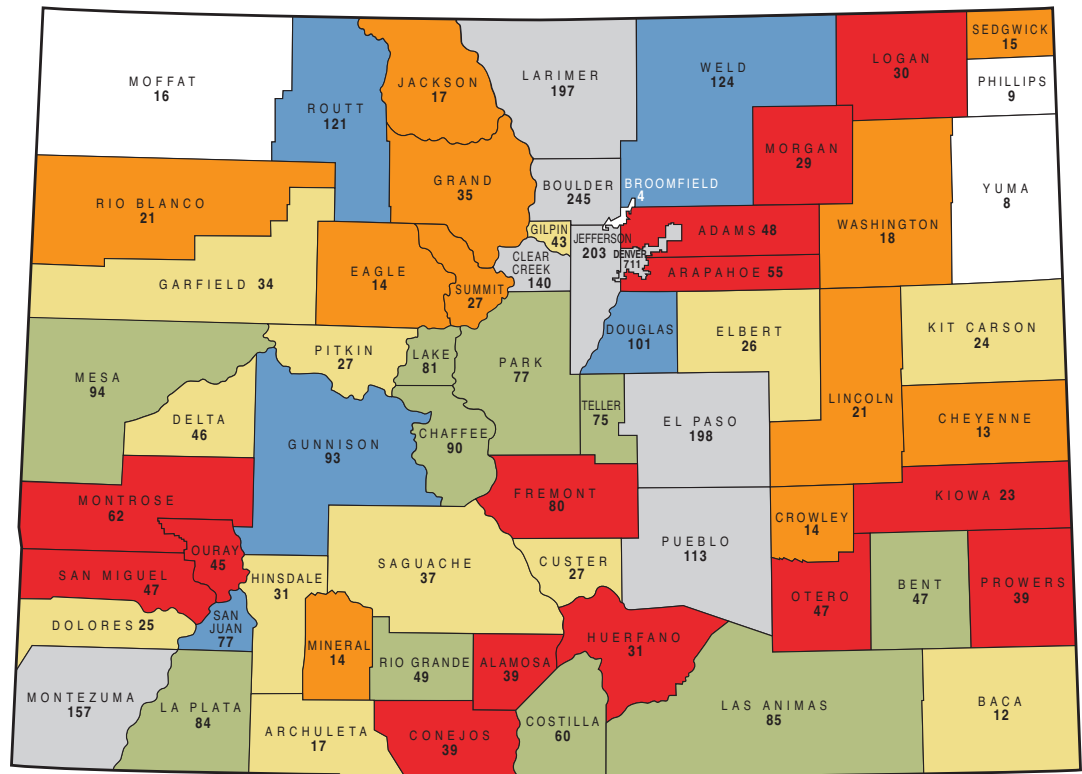
Grants awarded since program's inception

4,845

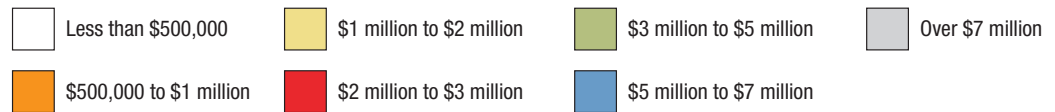
More than \$2 billion

Total economic impact of those grants statewide since 1991

Total Grant Dollars Awarded by County Since Program's Inception



Number of grants awarded indicated by numbers on the map. Projects affecting multiple counties are not shown.



Thank you, citizens of Colorado, for your support of the State Historical Fund.

Every year, the State Historical Fund receives a portion of state tax revenues generated by limited-stakes gaming in the towns of Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek. For thirty years, the fund has been one of the most

significant forces behind the preservation of Colorado history and a catalyst for strengthening communities statewide.

h-co.org/SHFgrants

Financial Summary

(July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021)

Revenues

Limited Gaming: Minority Share	\$5,691,382
Limited Gaming: Majority Share (SHF)	\$5,714,193
History Colorado Center Museum Operations	\$616,044
Community Museums	\$386,278
Development, Membership, and Foundation	\$1,912,470
Administration and Facilities	\$548,160
General Funds	\$4,603,711
Federal Funds	\$1,589,070
Gaming Cities Distribution	\$2,851,394
Total	\$23,912,702

Expenses

History Colorado Center Museum Operations	\$4,055,923
Community Museums Operations	\$2,203,021
Facilities and Central Administration	\$1,247,805
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation	\$1,598,458
State Historical Fund Operations	\$1,728,253
State Historical Fund Grants	\$4,081,050
Development, Membership, and Foundation	\$564,134
Capital Construction	\$418,217
Gaming Cities Distribution	\$2,851,394
Certificates of Participation	\$3,017,481
Other Operating Expenses	\$1,329,738
Total	\$23,095,474



Equality Day attendees (from left to right) Tamra Ward, Nicki Gonzales, Dawn DiPrince, Cathey McClain Finlon, and Jena Griswold. *Diana Odem*

For a more detailed financial summary, go to h-co.org/2021financial

Volunteers Help Tell Colorado's Story

The volunteers of History Colorado are a dedicated group who bring Colorado's history to life—whether it's interacting with visitors of all ages at our museums statewide, working behind the scenes, or making our collections accessible online. Internships and volunteerism at History Colorado enhance the experience of its volunteer community and create pathways for community members to gain access to our field.

In 2020–2021

1,116
volunteers

41,353
volunteer hours

\$1,292,831
economic impact

2020–21 History Colorado Volunteer Council

Margaret Conable (President)
Mary Kay Kisseberth (Vice President)
Kathy Peeters (Secretary/Treasurer)

Volunteers at El Pueblo. *Marisa Lopez*

Liaisons

Gloria Anderson
Susan Bracken
Gail Carpenter
Judy Durzo
Edward Ellis
Stephen Gillot

Mavis Kacena
Steve Longsdorf
Leslie Stevenson
Louise Treff-Gangler
Rae Wiseman



Education

While schools continued to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic and field trips were curtailed, not to mention in-person gatherings for the lectures and other programs our patrons love, History Colorado continued to serve our audiences of all ages with our Hands-On History @ Home programs, virtual field trips, and adult programs in a variety of virtual and in-person formats.

July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021

Virtual Field Trips

- 15 options
- 339 virtual field trips
- 11,660 schoolkids



Audience members at the Bold Women. Change History. event with Linda Alvarado.

Adult Education

59,012
participants

Hands-On History participants at Fort Garland Museum & Cultural Center.



Summer camp at the History Colorado Center.

Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion

Grounding Virtues

When the protests for Black lives and against police brutality began after the murder of George Floyd in the summer of 2020, a group of staff came together to build upon the statement History Colorado put forth regarding anti-racism. Calling upon institutional accountability and concrete actions, a group of co-conspirators were able to abet an institutional directive that

resulted in the formation of History Colorado's grounding virtues—an initiative to direct all institutional anti-racism activity, approved by board leadership, incorporated into all employee and volunteer applications, and forming part of yearly reviews.

As a result of coming together in an “open process” model each month, the group has directed a year's worth of reflection, capacity building, and truth telling at the institutional level. This has compelled departments across the organization to do their own reckoning and prompted more departmental initiatives such as the founding of the State Historical Fund's own inclusivity group aimed to address equity in grant-making projects across the state.

Museum of Memory

With its community-based and inclusive-history focus, Museum of Memory continues to contribute to History Colorado's key mission to tell the diverse stories of Colorado, while inspiring communities to find meaning in their past to create better communities.

- In southern Colorado, local youth from the towns of Antonito and San Luis conducted oral history interviews with older generations as part of youth memory projects, to explore the traditions and changes in their communities.
- In Denver, Museum of Memory has worked closely with Centro Humanitario para los Trabajadores, a labor center and community organization, to support the implementation of a community-led oral history project that explored the Covid-19 experiences of Latino day laborers and domestic workers.
- *The Five Points Plus: Neighborhood Memory Project* exhibit opened at the History Colorado Center. In this project, longtime resident families and friends of Denver's Five Points shared neighborhood stories via memory workshops, photo collecting, and a mural brainstorming session with Denver artist Adri Norris.

Community members gather at the Ute Indian Museum to dedicate a peace pole and break ground on the new nativescape.



Publications

History Colorado's publications continued to expand our commitment to documenting, exploring, and sharing the experiences that join us together as Coloradans, bringing you compelling original scholarship, insights, and perspectives.

From ongoing racial reckonings to remarkable women and from Indigenous voices to recreational pursuits, *The Colorado Magazine* in print and online explored how we got to now in ways that helped us gain perspective on another extraordinary year. Its companion publication, the *Weekly Digest*, solidified itself as one of our strongest tools for staying connected with our community, keeping readers up to date on History Colorado's latest endeavors, good reads, entertainment, and news that informs how we see the past, all delivered with a dose of cheer designed to brighten your day.

And from our new audio studio at the History Colorado Center, the second season of our *Lost Highways* podcast continued to share stories about Colorado's history that listeners often can't believe they've never heard before.

The Collection

History Colorado's Collection covers 13,000 years of human history in our state. The Collection represents the diverse voices and stories of the people (past and present) that have called Colorado home. It encompasses a wide variety of themes and subjects including innovation, resilience, and community; as well as challenges, hardship, and division.

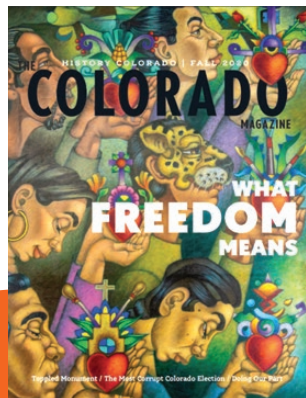
The Collection is one collection with many parts, including six historic houses, two forts, one narrow gauge railroad, 225,000 artifacts, 9,000 linear feet of archives and paper collections, more than one million photographs, and over sixty historic sites. More than just numbers and type, the Collection is our collective heritage and its value lies in its use as a rich resource, made up of multiple voices and powerful stories.

Our collecting approach during this year focused on initiatives aimed at adding more current and diverse voices to the collection. Through intentional community work and targeted contemporary collecting statewide, the Collection has grown in significant ways. A few examples include continued

documentation of the global pandemic and its impact in Colorado, political and social movements, collaboration with Colorado's Latino, Chicano, and Hispano communities, as well as Colorado's LGBTQ+, Black, and African American communities. Other areas of focus include Colorado Architecture and Urban Planning, Military and Government, Colorado Businesses, Agriculture, Fashion, and Art.

We are the stewards of the Colorado Collection, and it is our job (and privilege) to care for it and share it with the public. The Collection's value is expressly tied to the public's ability to use it in meaningful ways. In addition to aiding in the sharing of Colorado stories via exhibits and education programs across our museum network, we are working on new and innovative ways to increase access to the Collection. This year we had programs ranging from Museum Basics and how-to classes, to successful grants that will make collections more discoverable digitally, to new merchandise based on the Collection and our very successful Lending Resource Kits.

Support our mission! GiveHC.org



Visitors tour the reading room at the History Colorado Center.



Membership

Thank You...To Our Most Dedicated Members

30 Years or Longer

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Sara Alt
Diane & Forrest Anderson
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Mary & Bill Cunningham

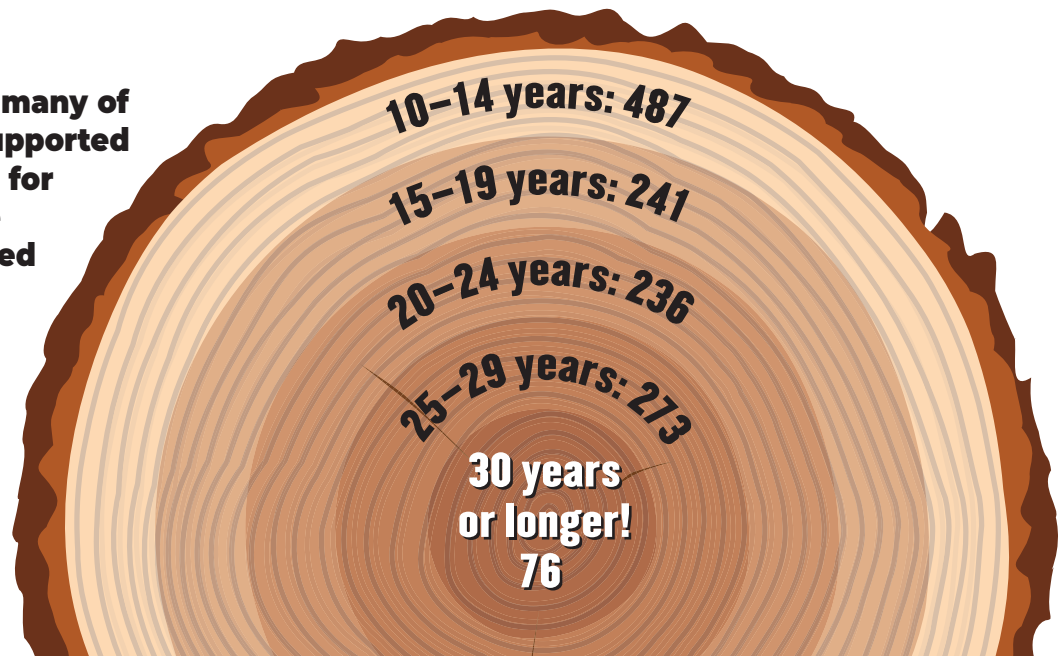
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**Should you be on this list? If so,
email shanea.ewing@state.co.us
or call 303-866-4481.**

**Here's how many of
you have supported
our mission for
ten or more
uninterrupted
years:**



Society 1879

Society 1879 recognizes those who include History Colorado in their estate plans. These gifts help preserve Colorado's historical treasure for future generations. A well-planned gift can support the organization's future while helping families achieve financial goals such as lowering their tax liability.

Anonymous (17)

Marguerite & Hartman Axley

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Vinnik Family

Grant Wilkins



Colorado! Members

Colorado! memberships engage givers in the long-term vision of History Colorado while deepening their connection to Colorado's past, present, and future. *Colorado!* members receive invitations to exclusive events to meet leading historians and thought leaders and enjoy unparalleled access to History Colorado's collections and programs.

Cathy & Marco Abarca

Shannon & Todger Anderson

Anonymous

Sue Anschutz-Rodgers

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Julie Speer Jackson

Steve Kick & Steve Turner

Tamra Ward & Dustin Whistler

Suellen & Travis White

Lise Woodard & Dr. John Reilly

. SOCIETY.
1879

HONORING THOSE WHOSE ESTATE PLANS

INCLUDE HISTORY COLORADO

To upgrade your membership or to make a meaningful tax-deductible gift to support your History Colorado, go to GiveHC.org today. Questions? Contact us at shanea.ewing@state.co.us or call 303-866-4481.

Donors

Thank you to our Donors!

The following have supported us through their generous donation and membership (July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021).

\$100,000+

Colorado RISE Education Fund
Indianapolis Museum of Art
Marjorie Maclachlan Trust
National Endowment for the Humanities

\$20,000–\$99,999

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\$1,000–\$2,499

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We do our best to ensure that this information is accurate. If you'd like us to make changes for a future Annual Report, please contact shannon.joern@state.co.us.

Volunteers at El Pueblo History Museum.





History Colorado

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