



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes

September 22, 2021

The Board of Directors of History Colorado (a/k/a The Colorado Historical Society) ("HC") met in person and via virtual conference Wednesday, September 22, 2021. Present were directors: Tamra Ward, Marco Abarca, Luis Benitez, Cathy Carpenter Dea, Cathey Finlon, Robert Musgraves, Ellen Roberts, Stephen Sturm, Mary Sullivan and Penfield Tate III.

Also in attendance: Dawn DiPrince, Ben Boggs, Shaun Boyd, Luis Colón, Jason Hanson, Shannon Joern, Sue Kim, Mary Kay Kisseberth, Dexter Nelson, Angie Paccione, Jordan Parry, Jeannie Vanderburg, and Joe Zhou. Dianne Brown and Julia Mayben served as recording secretaries.

Ward called the meeting to order at 8:04am. She asked for a motion to approve the July 28, 2021 minutes. Sturm motioned to approve; Abarca seconded; motion passed.

Executive Director Report

Museum Exhibits and Events: DiPrince updated the board on the deep positive conversations they are having with three tribal partners for the Sand Creek Massacre exhibit, which will open November 2022. HC has received \$600,000 in federal grant funding for the exhibit. DiPrince also reported that the Santa Fe Trail exhibit will open at Trinidad Museum, marking the 200th anniversary. On September 30, Ft. Garland will host an event celebrating the opening of installment by artist jetsonorama. DiPrince also reported the recent Brewfest event at El Pueblo Museum attracted over 500 guests, more than in years past; and at this year's Chili Festival, the museum will have a significant presence at the event.

Staffing: DiPrince reported April Legg has been promoted to Chief Education Officer and will lead HC's statewide education and curriculum efforts and programs. DiPrince introduced Shaun Boyd, HC's curator of archives to the board, highlighting Boyd's efforts and sensitivity with programs including digitizing KKK ledgers and Elijah McClain collecting efforts. Ward commended Boyd's work and Finlon noted Boyd's previous contributions in conjunction with the Women's Vote Centennial. DiPrince also introduced Dexter Nelson, HC's new African American curator, who was hired recently as part of the HC strategic plan of diversity in broadening curatorial efforts.

Angie Paccione commended HC's array of events and requested a list of events she would forward to the Governor and Lt Governor. DiPrince added that *Bold Women. Change History.* lectures are back; the first one featured Linda Alvarado on Sept 15 and the next event is Oct 11, International Day of the Girl, with Gitanjali Rao, TIME Magazine's Kid of the Year.

Carpenter Dea inquired about digital programming for elderly, relating that her mother is in an assisted living facility, which she believes would welcome digital opportunities. DiPrince and Joern outlined a new digital membership program that is being launched in conjunction with a Next50 grant.

Legislative Report

Vanderburg reported on the current legislative activities for the \$4B the state received in stimulus funding and that efforts are focused on spending priorities for the balance of funding. Gov Polis will announce the budget November 1. Additionally, Vanderburg highlighted recent legislative outreach efforts on behalf of HC and the impact of the upcoming ballot measure Amendment 78, which increases state spending on the budgeting process and may change how custodial money is spent which could affect state revenue, if it passes.

HC Advisory Council

Ward proposed HC Advisory Council, to bring together a broad spectrum of people to assist DiPrince in executing the HC master plan. Finlon stated the framework of the program is based on the model for DU's Daniel College of Business, which shared the wisdom of high level leaders. Musgraves inquired about who would manage; DiPrince stated she would be the point of contact. Sturm asked about board participation; DiPrince confirmed there will be board participation. Ward asked for a motion to support; Sullivan motioned to approve; Abarco seconded; motion passed.

State Review Board

Bowles presented two properties for board approval. He noted that there were only three applications to review this round. The two being recommended were: the Cobblehurst in Glenwood Springs, and Craig School in Craig. Ward asked for a motion to add properties to the State Register; Finlon motioned to approve; Musgraves seconded; motion passed.

Finance Report

Colón introduced two staff members: Joe Zhou and Jordan Parry. Colón reviewed fiscal year budgets, stating that HC ended FY21 with a higher than expected surplus of \$613,377, up from \$434,532. Total revenue was \$15,585,428, total expenses were \$14,972,051. FY22 budget has changed dramatically due to an increase in gaming revenue. Current FY22 budget revenue is \$23,083,349, with expenses \$22,619,691, and surplus of \$463,658. Key investments include community museums, personnel and programs, POS software, capital projects and digital badges. Colón also reported our available fund balances are healthy. Funds 4390, 5090, 5095, and 7240 total \$1,967,242.68; CHF Reserve Fund is currently \$1,636.102; the total reserves are \$3,603,345.68. Fund 7250 restricted balance is \$2,342,346.28.

Facilities

Colón reported several projects are underway including roofing at El Pueblo, Trinidad, Byers Evans, and repairs at Pearce-McAllister Cottage and Ft. Vasquez, as well as fire mitigation at Georgetown. Work continues on a Facility Condition Assessment and Collections Facility Master Planning.

IT

Colón reported that IT work is ramping up, with focus on community museums network infrastructure upgrades, an E-preservation modernization project and SHF grant system application. DiPrince discussed moving away from OIT as a step for better service and capabilities. She stated all programs are embedded in the budget.

Strategic Plan Measurements

Colón reported attendance is tracking better than 2019 and is close to 2018. Colón commended Shannon Haltiwagner for her efforts in tracking the complex process for engagement numbers and said they are focusing on tracking engagement in line with revenue.

Philanthropy & Membership

Joern made a presentation on current programs and exhibits funding. She reported that HC has received a record breaking \$2.5M in competitive funding support for exhibits and programs. Joern updated the board on the new History Buffs program for 4th graders and their families, which currently has 2,486 current members. She noted that the HC initiatives receiving federal funding is proof that our programs are viewed as important on a national level. Ward thanked Joern for the robust efforts. Carpenter Dea also applauded the efforts. Sturm commended the support from the national level.

Historic Preservation Tax Credit Application Appeal Process

DiPrince, Bowles, and other staff excused themselves from the meeting room for this portion of the agenda. The board discussed the Historic Preservation Tax Credit Application Appeal process. The board gave guidance to Adjudicatory Counsel Sue Kim regarding the manner in which the board may conduct a hearing. Carpenter Dea moved to delegate authority to the Chair to consult with and give further guidance to Adjudicatory Counsel to facilitate a streamlined hearing process regarding a tax credit application appeal; Sturm seconded; motion passed.

The meeting concluded at 10:38 am.