



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes

January 26, 2022

8am-10:30am

The Board of Directors of History Colorado (a/k/a The Colorado Historical Society) ("HC") met in person and via virtual conference Wednesday, January 26, 2022. Present were directors: Tamra Ward, Marco Abarca, Rich Benenson, Luis Benitez, Cathey Finlon, Donna Lynne, Carlos Martinez, Robert Musgraves, Ellen Roberts, Mary Sullivan, and Penfield Tate III.

HC Staff in attendance: Dawn DiPrince, Luis Colón, Chris Bowles, Eric Carpio, Patrick Eidman, Jason Hanson, Shannon Joern, April Legg, and Jordan Parry. Others in attendance: Cathy Stroh, Patrick Warwick Diaz, Mary Kisseberth, Joe Zhou, Angie Paccione, and Christine Staberg. Dianne Brown served as recording secretary.

Ward called the meeting to order at 8:04 am. Ward presented an update from the Board's Ad Hoc Hearing Committee for Commercial Historic Preservation Tax Credit Application Appeals, which convened on Jan. 18 to conduct an evidentiary hearing as delegated by the Board. The Committee reached a unanimous recommendation which will be delivered in writing to the board, anticipated at its March meeting.

Ward presented some minor revisions to the November 17, 2021 minutes and asked for a motion to approve them. Tate motioned to approve and Sullivan 2nd, motion passed.

Board transitions - Ward welcomed Martinez and Benenson to the board. She extended thanks to Cathy Carpenter Dea, Ann Walker and Stephen Sturm for their services as they were not reappointed by the governor. She asked that the record reflect how thankful we are for their contributions to HC. DiPrince read proclamations for Walker, Dea and Sturm.

Benenson introduced himself and shared that he has a great interest in Colorado history and was impressed by the Lost Highway Podcasts, had an opportunity to tour the HCC museum and learn about the work of the organization and board by DiPrince. Martinez introduced himself echoing his love of history and noted he looks forward to serving on the board. His organization Latino Heritage has partnered with HC in the past and he looks forward to continuing that work.

Musgraves provided an update on the Archaeology & Historic Preservation Committee (AHPC) Task Force. Former board member Walker served as the representative to the Committee, serving many years as chair of AHPC. We thank her for her expertise and perseverance. He

noted that we are pausing and reevaluating where we are with regard to the AHPC historic grant program. Finlon and Musgraves will review the program and the board's involvement in the program to help guide and direct it going forward. Musgraves stated that he will be seeking board members to participate in the AHPC Task Force and staff will also be involved in the process. We are also focused on broadening our inclusivity efforts. Ward thanked Musgraves and Finlon for taking this on. Finlon noted that this has been a three decade nationally recognized program and we would like to ensure that it remains as such. This program utilizes 51% of our budget - from limited gaming funds. The program was crippled in 2008 with the ratchet effect and we have an opportunity to improve and increase board participation to assure continued success. Roberts underscored that Walker and Dea did good work in continually bringing forward the rural significance of the program, and we need to keep that at the forefront. Ward agreed and noted that the overarching goal of the committee is continuing to knit together *One History Colorado* which is part of our strategic planning focus. She asked that anybody who has an interest in participating on the task force, let DiPrince or Ward know.

Legislative Report - Staberg provided a legislative update noting that the legislature has been in session for more than 2 weeks and her team is busy, especially with HC. The past few weeks has been focussed on JBC updates and Smart Act hearings to committees of reference. There seems to be 20 legislators out due to Covid each week. They participate remotely, and hope by next week the majority will be back in the building. Last week HC gave updates to legislators, JBC, and the CDC. The higher than estimated gaming revenues necessitated approval of spending authority and adjustment in the Long Bill. Legislators had positive feedback. The Smart Act Committee gave positive feedback to DiPrince in spite of the late evening. Additionally, we have scheduled a tour of North Storage with OSPB.

Executive Director Update - DiPrince would like to have a July road trip with a meeting in the afternoon at Ft. Garland with the option to join remotely. The next day would be a field trip taking the Cumbres and Toltec train. She proposed having the board meeting on Thursday afternoon on July 28 and taking the train on July 29. We would arrange for lodging in Alamosa for the board on Thursday evening. The board liked this idea.

Spending Authority Overview - DiPrince reported on the spending authority noting that when the budget was set during figure setting last March, the gaming projected for the minority side was \$5.1M. To our benefit, the minority share of gaming was actually \$9.9M. The Long Bill didn't have language to allow HC spending authority, even though we received a transfer of \$9.9M from Revenue in August into our account. Therefore, we needed to submit an emergency supplemental bill to grant us spending authority. The JBC unanimously approved spending authority for this year.

Funding for Infrastructure Development Coming into the State from Washington, D.C. - Federal funds are required to go through Section 106 review, which we manage on behalf of the state. There is an important compliance process to help protect cultural resources and we want to make sure we fulfill those obligations and help the state take advantage of infrastructure dollars coming our way. We're asking OSPB for 3 term limited positions to help with compliance

review, 2 general and 1 dedicated to CDOT 10 yr plan and front range railroad. A memo was submitted in December to the governor's office and they seem amenable to our request.

State Register - Eidman reviewed state and national review of properties. The two review boards are composed of experts in archeology and preservation and they met last week. There are two state register properties: Emily Griffith Building and Kistler Stables-Pheasant Ridge Aqua and Racquet Club being recommended for the state register.

Emily Griffith Building - is locally significant under State Register of Historic Places (SRHP) Criterion A for its association with trends in education for the period from 1926 through 1968, and under SRHP Criterion B for its association with Emily Griffith during her tenure as principal of the school from 1926 through 1933. Finlon motioned to approve; Tate 2nd; motion passed.

Kistler Stables-Pheasant Ridge Aqua and Racquet Club - This property is locally significant under Criterion A for Entertainment/Recreation for its historic association with equestrianism and country club recreation in Cherry Hills Village from the 1930s through the present day. In the late-19th century, horse sports emerged as a common means of recreation and entertainment among the city's wealthy residents. Tate motioned to approve; Sullivan 2nd; motion passed.

Musgraves commented that we don't often speak about historic preservation advocacy. Without Historic Denver efforts on the Emily Griffith building, it may have been torn down. But they fought that fight to save the building. DiPrince noted that these tools of being on the register allows access to SHF or federal tax credits. Tate would like to see aggregation of all of the properties on state and national registers to gain a sense of how expansive the program is throughout the state. DiPrince noted that BIPOC has only 3-5% of properties; we are looking to hire fellows to help us move the needle over the next three years and will share that progress with the board to ensure that the program is fully inclusive as the history of the state. Finlon would also like to see how funding has been distributed statewide with tax credits.

State Historian Council - Hanson reported that since creating the State Historian Council in 2018, it has been successful in broadening HC's reach. There are two unanticipated vacancies to fill. Duane Vandebusch resigned at the end of 2021 and Tom Noel moved to emeritus status. Hanson is soliciting suggestions for potential candidates. The guiding documents for this council emphasize many perspectives and disciplines, cultures and places in Colorado. He will provide a list of candidates for the board to consider at the March meeting with appointment and integration into the May council meeting. Ward would like to share with new board members the charter and current members with recap of the work that the Council has done. Hanson will send the guiding document. He noted that it is a five member council serving staggered terms. The State Historian serves for one year, and currently is Nicki Gonzales. Guiding document allows for serving a second term for this inaugural group. Hanson touched on some of the work the state historians have done: helping to shape marquis exhibits at institutions statewide. Wei has a new book "Becoming Colorado" which focuses on the "Zoom In" exhibit (he was an integral part of this exhibit). In addition, there is a State Historian's address each year and programming roundtables allow us to address contemporary issues

when opportunities arise - we have had two thus far (presidential transitions of power; and Colorado's history with the KKK after HC released digitized KKK ledgers). Lastly, there is a yearly board lunch on Colorado day with the State Historian Council.

Flourish - Joern reported on a plan to rebuild the donor base with a proposal to build long term growth and stability. She is seeking board approval to invest \$500K over 3 years to invest in development department's overall strategy. We have been successful the last 2 years in attracting and receiving institutional support, new federal funding sources, one-time and ongoing. Joern is proposing with this investment to hire a major gifts director to bring back diversity of fundraising to build back individual donor base to meet annual budget unrestricted revenue goals. Overall, it creates more growth. The Finance Committee unanimously approved this and she is seeking the board's approval. Tate commented that it would be helpful to talk about how this effort works with issues to gaming proceeds exceeding forecast. How is this handled differently? Parry replied that philanthropic donations go into two buckets, restricted (spent on specific) and unrestricted (more flexibility). The unrestricted funds are continuously appropriated and we are able to spend with the best interest of HC to enable growth. Ward asked for a motion to approve the request. Finlon motioned to approve; Tate 2nd; motion passed.

Financial Report - Colón reported that from the accounting perspective, they are wrapping up the audit process. We expect a finding related to our fixed asset accounting due to an error of date that was entered in the new financial system during the transition. Thanks to Zhou and the accounting team, as they had very little time to learn and get up to speed on financial reporting. He also reported that Lowry has been sold and we will receive \$4.8M. Funds have been set aside for projects and building repairs which require legislative approval to spend. We will also apply funds toward a new collection storage facility. He thanked Sullivan for her expertise in this sale and her assistance to research and identify a new storage facility.

Parry noted that financials will be included in board packets. Statements of activities on the revenue side, year to date are a little lower than anticipated, but are doing well. Community Museums are carrying load with what they are doing. Anticipate coming in right around the budgeted amount. Expenditures are similar to revenue in where we are. Anticipate to be slightly under where we budgeted. Year-end surplus continues to change, we are optimistic on our operating budget. Musgraves asked for a regular update on balance sheet funds, we should be able to see it to compare to other periods and compare to our reserve policy. Colón noted for a number of reasons Amanda Bickel (JBC Staff) opened the door for renegotiation of the formula that creates our limited gaming share. Tate asked what is driving the renegotiation of the formula. DiPrince replied that it includes a bill passed in spring HB1400 that saved HC during Covid crisis which removed the cap to allow us to bounce back when gaming did. It also noted that when gaming bounces back the cap is to remain in effect, but there is no cap. We are working with our JBC analyst on this and will share more as we learn more.

Colorado History Curriculum - DiPrince noted an easy-to-use Colorado history curriculum is part of our strategic plan and pivot plan. Legg & Carpio presented a powerpoint on Colorado history

curriculum being developed in collaboration with the Centennial School District in San Luis, which will be a building block of History Colorado's larger plan to develop a comprehensive 4th grade history curriculum. The project was propelled forward by the special RISE (Response, Innovation and Student Equity) grant developed by the Governor. In fall 2020, the governor's office made \$32M available through federal relief funds for projects that used innovation to help bridge the achievement gap for students of color. Centennial School District received a RISE grant of \$851,369, which included about \$450k to partner with History Colorado. The geographically and culturally relevant and academically rigorous content is used to meet the Colorado academic standards and help students build connections and pride in their place, heritage and state. This program hits all 4 pillars of HC strategic plan. Visit: risesanluis.org

Abarca commented that he is sympathetic to efforts, as he was never taught about his history during his childhood. However, he urged caution as we live in a hyperbolic time and efforts can be taken out of context. DiPrince noted we are very conscious about that in all we do. One beauty of the process is that it isn't being developed in a tower; rather it's building in the community. Musgraves thinks it sounds interesting and a great project which seems like a fortunate confluence of funding. Do we think that confluence is going to happen around the state? DiPrince has heard from others around the state that funders are interested in partnering with HC on this. Roberts wonders how many rural schools only have 4 day weeks. She recalled visiting the local history museum which served as a school in Durango and wondered if this programming could help in those rural areas to get back to a 5 day content rich environment.

Military Collection Report - Juergens presented an update on the military collection. The focus has been on the 10th Mountain Division. In partnership with the library, we are a depository for the collection. Telling the stories behind the objects to connect our state to major world events. We are building organizational and community outreach which enables schools and organizations to tour the collection. Continue to receive collection objects mostly WWII, but some other significant events. Have an amazing volunteer team. Roberts commented that Juergens is notable across the nation and recognized his writing. Tate asked if the collection includes anything on Buffalo soldiers? Juergens replied yes, we had a recent object and a call with Ntl Guard on next month's Black History month with a focus on Buffalo soldiers. The board thanked Juergens for his update and efforts.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:18am.