

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HISTORY COLORADO

February 11, 2016

A meeting of the Colorado Historical Society (History Colorado/HC) Board of Directors was held at 8:00 am at the History Colorado Center (HCC) on February 11, 2016. Present in person were directors Marco Abarca, Cathey Finlon, Bob Musgraves, Ann Pritzlaff, Tamra Ward, and Charlie Woolley. Rick Pederson and Chris Tetzeli called into the meeting. History Colorado staff in attendance were Megan Friedel, Elisa Phelps, Steve Turner, and Shannon Voirol. Also attending was Ed Ellis, Volunteer. Sherry Lestina served as recording secretary.

Ann Pritzlaff, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:04 am and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Preservation and SHF: Governor Hickenlooper declared May 2016 as Archaeology & Historic Preservation Month in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. (Attachment A) A Resolution honoring the 50 year anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, sponsored by Senators Roberts and Steadman, will be read on the Senate floor on February 26th. Several “big checks” for SHF grants were presented by state legislators to grant recipients at the Western Heritage Luncheon held on February 5th at the annual CPI Conference.

Exhibits: The Exhibit Development Team met two weeks ago. They approved the Exhibit Selection Criteria. (Attachment B) It is hoped that these criteria will help drive HC toward creating dynamic exhibits that focus on the significance of Colorado and its place in history. Would like to have an advisory panel of experts in the subject matter to assist and review each major exhibit while the exhibit is in development.

The Project Process Guide (Attachment C) was also approved at the Exhibit Development Team meeting. Abarca reminded the group that there are exhibits in development for the long term, but we need some for the short term, after *Awkward Family Photos* is closed.

The Interpretative Plan currently in place was adopted when the last AAM accreditation was completed. Jason Hanson (Deputy State Historian) will be doing a search of interpretative plans from other institutions; however, this is not a high priority item. Woolley reviewed the current plan and feels it is a good starting point for a new plan.

Colorado Sound Exhibit: Megal Friedel made a presentation regarding the proposed Colorado Sound Exhibit. She started by noting that today’s presentation is only a plan and will need additional research, planning and seed money to continue this process. (Attachment D) Many organizations are being approached to partner with HC on this exhibit. Numerous individuals have already agreed to allow HC access to their private collections. Finlon suggested talking with the Denver Art Museum to see how they solved the problem of competing sounds within an exhibit. Abarca wants to make sure the exhibit or portions of the exhibit can be moved to the Community Museums and incorporate the musical experience of the southern portion of the state. Possibly add a local component to the exhibit when shown in other locations. Finlon would like to have funding strategies started now by identifying prospects. Finlon moved and Abarca seconded the motion to approve \$19,500 as seed money for further development and research of the Colorado Sound exhibit. The motion carried.

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Chair update: Pritzlaff told the board that Development is applying for some grants that require 100% board giving participation. She urged all board members to become HC members and to consider a higher level of giving.

Transition team:

- Musgraves met with the Foundation Board. CHF will begin contacting some of the names HC provided as potential new board members with a view toward expanding the philanthropic reach of this board through the Foundation board.
- The exhibit cases for the 4th floor are being completed. They will display artifacts from the Pearce McAllister House with a theme of “fine dining”.
- There has been great deal of PR effort and local news coverage on behalf of SHF. (Attachment E)
- Turner and Burlile met with the Gates Foundation regarding the Ute Indian Museum expansion. They received very positive response from Tom Gougeon and he requested HC submit a grant proposal to their next grant round.
- Turner contacted the Kirkland Museum as Abarca said the Kirkland was interested in possibly collaborating with HC. After second consideration, the Kirkland staff decided that they are too busy at this time.
- The Denver Art Museum is still interested in leasing the Lowry warehouse, but HC needs to work with some federal agencies to get approvals for this rental. Ward suggested HC talk to Senators Gardner and Bennet to aid in this process, if need be.
- The opening reception for *El Movimiento* at the El Pueblo Museum was very successful with approximately 1,000 guests. Plans are in process for strategic planning sessions in Fort Garland and Trinidad.
- Turner showed a rough model of changes to be made to the Bent Fort’s exhibit on the second floor. Some artifacts and photographs will be added and some cartoons removed.

Lobbyists: Christine Staberg and Debbie Wagner both joined the meeting to make a presentation on lobbying activities. Both are on contract. Staberg advocates for preservation and defense of SHF funds. Wagner covers HC’s operations, including budget, legislative committee contact, and capitol development. Staberg is paid from the majority share; Wagner is paid from the minority share.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 am.