



# HISTORY *Colorado*

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015







*In February 2015, History Colorado Center guests kicked off the opening of The 1968 Exhibit, an award-winning traveling exhibit making stops at some of the nation's top museums. The 1968 Exhibit brought a pivotal American year to life through photographs, artifacts, vintage pop culture items, and interactives.*

## MISSION

History Colorado inspires generations to find wonder and meaning in our past and to engage in creating a better Colorado.

## VISION

History Colorado leads through accessible, compelling programs in education, preservation, and stewardship; serves Coloradans and enriches communities statewide; connects collections, places, people, and their stories with audiences in meaningful ways; and pursues sustainability through smart planning and sound business practices, while diversifying its financial base.

## 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 CHAIR

One of the cornerstones of History Colorado's success has always been, and will continue to be, our partners and supporters. So we're pleased to present you this report of the highlights and triumphs of our past fiscal year as we continue to inspire generations to find wonder and meaning in our past and to engage in creating a better Colorado.

You may have heard about changes at History Colorado's board, leadership, and staff over this past year. On July 1, 2015, members of the new History Colorado Board of Directors, appointed by Governor John Hickenlooper, began their official duties. Since that date, they've met often to provide guidance and insight. The board is solidifying our organizational structure to capitalize on the opportunities and successes of the past four years since the completion of the *Make History Colorado!* campaign and the opening of the History Colorado Center. We're also enhancing our financial management to align it with Colorado's Executive Branch.

The board and leadership are improving the organization's financial position in the face of a variety of challenges. Over the course of several months, an internal taskforce of staff and board recommended \$3 million in budget adjustments over two years in order to minimize further near-term negative impact to History Colorado's financial reserves and position the organization to resume growing those reserves. In August, as part of a voluntary retirement program, CEO and State Historic Preservation Officer Ed Nichols announced his retirement. Ed has continued to be a valued resource while the board works expeditiously to find a new leader. In September, the board named a transition team to lead day-to-day activities as we conduct a national search for a new Executive Director. Board member Robert E. Musgraves and Steve Turner, Deputy Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer, are serving as the transition team. Bob and Steve are well suited to lead us through this transition.

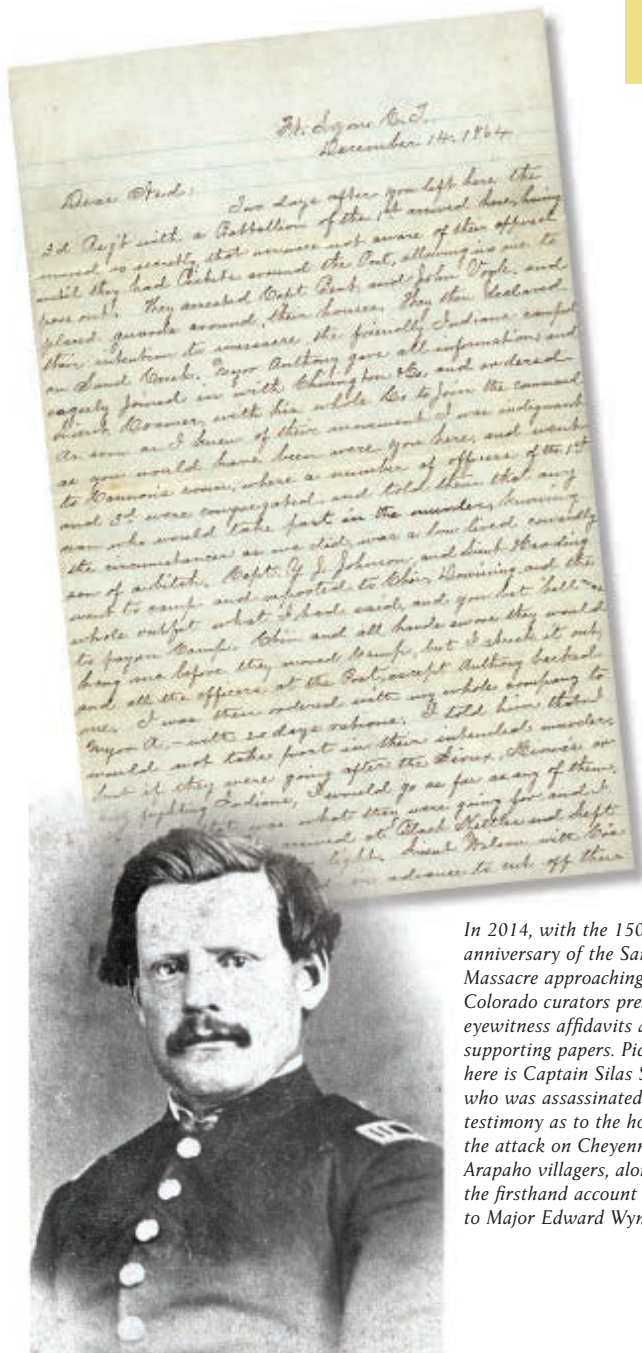
Senior leadership, in partnership with the board, made the difficult decision to reduce staffing to address the additional expense reductions needed. The board and leadership team have worked through these challenges in a manner that will return the organization to sound financial footing while maintaining the valued programs and other offerings you've come to expect. We do this all with a view toward better positioning the organization for long-term success.

History Colorado continues to serve as one of the country's premiere history and historic preservation institutions. Though we face challenges, we are well positioned to succeed.

We value our relationship with you and our shared commitment to our mission to serve the citizens of Colorado. We look forward to working closely with you throughout this transition and welcome your ideas for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann D. Pritzlaff". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ann Alexander Pritzlaff  
Chair, History Colorado Board of Directors



In 2014, with the 150th anniversary of the Sand Creek Massacre approaching, History Colorado curators preserved six eyewitness affidavits and their supporting papers. Pictured here is Captain Silas S. Soule, who was assassinated for his testimony as to the horrors of the attack on Cheyenne and Arapaho villagers, along with the firsthand account he wrote to Major Edward Wynkoop.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

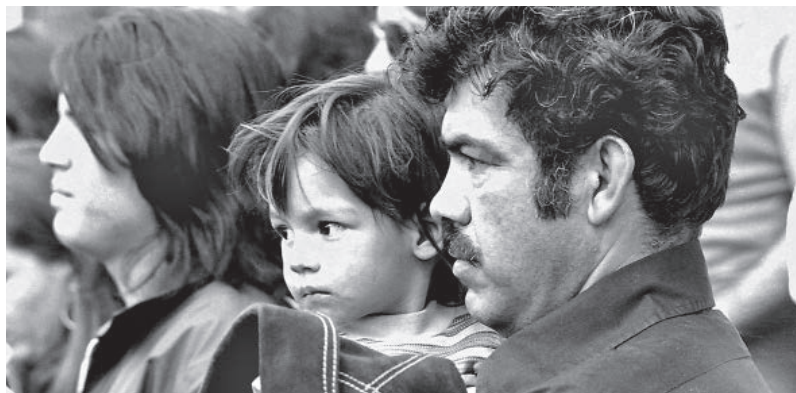
- History Colorado welcomed nearly 423,000 visitors to our museums and historic sites throughout Colorado.
- Nearly 43,000 students visited the History Colorado Center during the 2014-15 school year. This was up 7,500 students from the previous school year and more than 10,000 from 2012, the year the History Colorado Center opened. About 12,500 of the students were from Title I schools, representing 29 percent of field trip visits.
- The RACE: Are We So Different? exhibit at the History Colorado Center received *The Denver Post's* award for best cultural event of 2014, *Westword's* Best of 2014 award, and a Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State and Local History for its programming.
- History Colorado and Rocky Mountain PBS continue to collaborate on the *Colorado Experience* series. The "Sand Creek Massacre" episode won a 2015 Heartland Emmy Award.
- The History Colorado Center hosted the award-winning major traveling show *The 1968 Exhibit* from February to May of 2015, bringing a dramatic American year to life for more than 64,000 visitors.
- The Byers-Evans House Gallery featured *The Family Dog Denver: Rock Posters and Music in Denver 1967-68*, a companion exhibition to *The 1968 Exhibit*. Over 3,000 visitors enjoyed the story of local history told through these posters.
- History Colorado launched its online collection catalog on July 1, 2014. Since then, our collection has been accessed more than 37,000 times through our public portal at [H-CO.org/collections](http://H-CO.org/collections).

Denver mayor Michael Hancock leads a town hall forum in conjunction with RACE: Are We So Different?





- History Colorado is the recognized institution for Colorado newspapers on microfilm, which account for 60 percent of research inquiries in the Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center.
- History Colorado opened *El Movimiento: The Chicano Movement in Colorado* in February 2015 to accompany *The 1968 Exhibit*. Staff worked with community advisors from across Colorado to create the exhibit, and an adaptation of it opened at El Pueblo History Museum in 2016.
- The Byers-Evans House Museum hosted the book launch and accompanying exhibition for *The Denver Artists Guild: Its Founding Members*. Held on June 26, the book launch brought together staff and patrons of several arts organizations throughout the city.
- History Colorado's community museums continue to draw visitors statewide. El Pueblo History Museum created two new events—Whiskeys of the West (May) and the Bruja Brew Fest (September)—to expand audiences and raise funds for educational programs. The Day of the Child event at the Healy House in Leadville attracted 260 new visitors. The American Indian Heritage Film Festival at the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose featured a full day of music, film, speakers, and an Indian Market.



Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s

In conjunction with the History Colorado Center's run of *The 1968 Exhibit*, the Byers-Evans House Museum hosted Rock Posters from Denver's Family Dog. Photo © Rhino Records

*El Movimiento* includes firsthand materials from the Chicano Movement, including this photo of Chicano leader Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales by Juan Espinosa.

*State Historical Fund emergency dollars enabled post-flood stabilization of Salina's Little Church in the Pines.*



- El Pueblo History Museum launched Hands-On History After School Program and Summer Camps, which provided learning opportunities for elementary-aged kids in Pueblo County. Over 85 percent of the students in the after-school program receive needs-based tuition assistance.
- History Colorado staff worked closely with the three Ute tribes—Southern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and the Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservations—to develop a plan for the expansion of the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose. The expansion will be complete in summer 2017.
- With funding from the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area, Fort Garland Museum staff and volunteers began collecting and recording interviews from Valley residents of Japanese descent. Interviews will be accessible at the Milton Miller Library at the fort, and at the History Colorado Center's Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center.
- *Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s* opened at the History Colorado Center with the biggest member exhibit preview to date. The exhibit, which encouraged visitors to play and let their imaginations run wild, was extended due to popular demand.

The 1968 Exhibit



Fort Garland Museum



*Courtesy Minnesota History Center*





- Working with agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, National Resources Conservation Service, and Colorado Department of Transportation, the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation continued to facilitate disaster relief and preservation efforts after Colorado's devastating floods of 2013.
- The Preservation Planning Unit submitted its five-year update to the statewide preservation plan to the National Park Service. The unit listed properties associated with African American heritage in the National Register of Historic Places, including the People's Methodist Episcopal Church in Colorado Springs, Denver's Macedonia Baptist Church, and Winks Panorama, an African American lodge.
- The State Historical Fund launched an online-only grant application process and transitioned to an online grant management system.
- The Office of the State Archaeologist taught avocational archaeological courses and workshops to 300 volunteers, and served on an excavation project at a high-altitude site at Snow Mesa north of Creede in Mineral County.
- History Colorado partnered with Colorado Humanities and Colorado State University on the Colorado Encyclopedia Project ([coloradoencyclopedia.colostate.edu/](http://coloradoencyclopedia.colostate.edu/)), an ambitious online resource in the making.

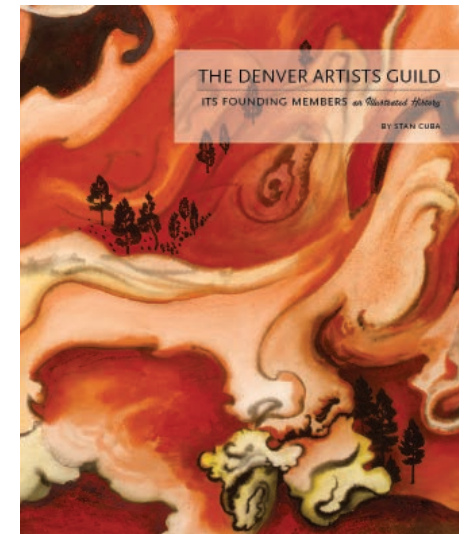
*The Snow Mesa archaeology crew*



*Vance Kirkland's 1945 oil Four Million Years Ago is one of more than 200 works featured in History Colorado's major new publication The Denver Artists Guild: Its Founding Members.*

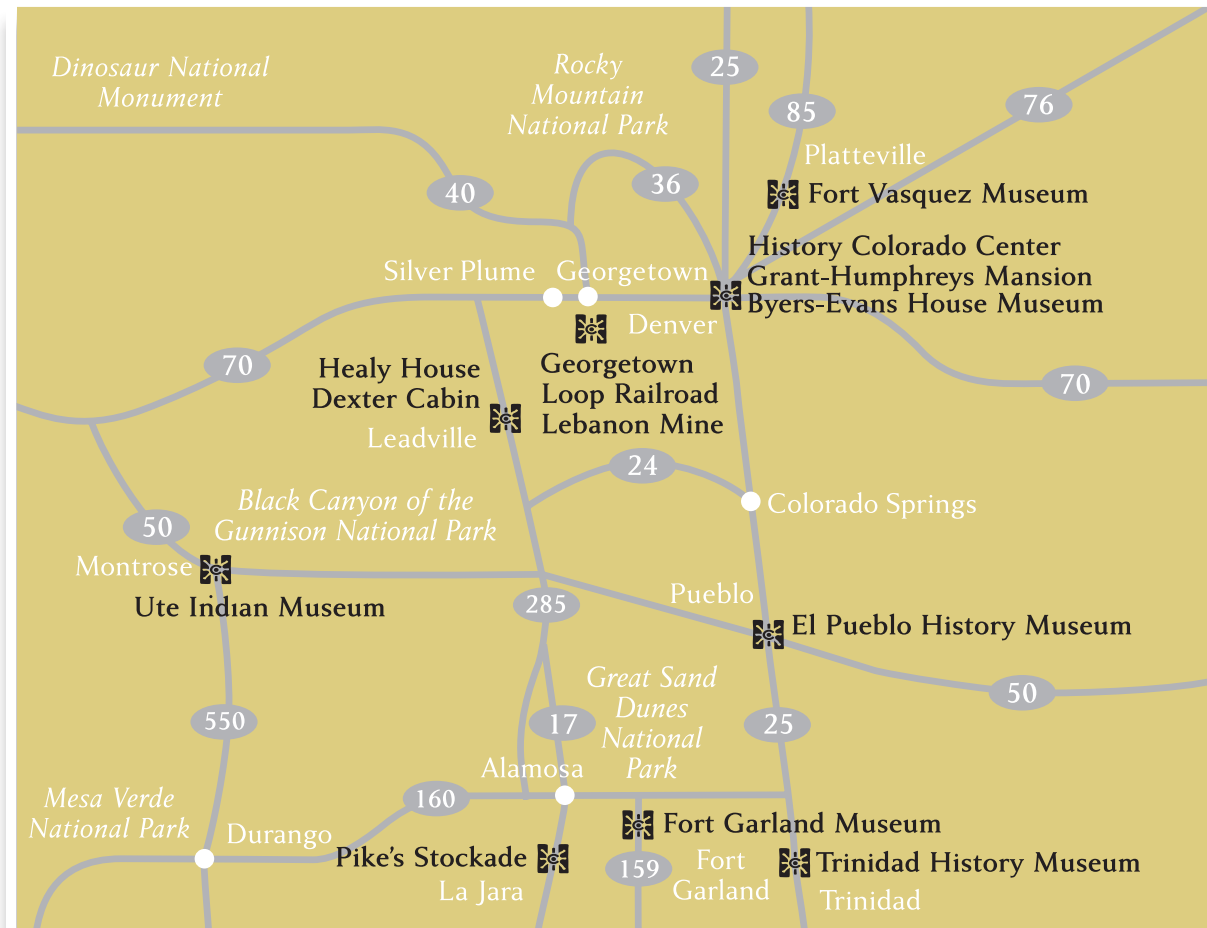


*Images of the early Colorado Mountain Club are among the many artifacts now available via the [History Colorado Online Collection](#).*



## 2014–2015 ATTENDANCE

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



History Colorado Center		214,421
Byers-Evans House Museum		13,203
El Pueblo History Museum		34,274
Fort Garland Museum		8,471
Fort Vasquez Museum		4,515
Georgetown Loop Railroad®		111,510
Grant-Humphreys Mansion		20,033
Healy House/Dexter Cabin		3,537
Trinidad History Museum		4,498
Ute Indian Museum		8,451
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b> </b>	<b>422,913</b>





## HISTORY COLORADO FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2014–2015\*

### SUMMARY

REVENUE	TOTAL
Limited Gaming	\$18,780,243
Federal Grants	\$1,013,741
Earned Income and Interest	\$5,902,745
Total Revenue	\$25,696,729

*\*Unaudited financial operations summary; excludes controlled maintenance and capital expenditures that are appropriated over multiple years.*

### EXPENDITURES

Museum Operations	\$17,299,098
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation	\$1,936,831
State Historical Fund—Preservation Grants	\$6,810,422
State Historical Fund—Administration	\$1,744,672
Total Expenditures	\$27,791,023

### DETAIL BY MAJOR OPERATION

	MUSEUM	PRESERVATION	TOTAL
REVENUE			
Limited Gaming Revenue (Museum)	\$9,371,341	—	\$9,371,341
Limited Gaming Revenue (State Historical Fund)	—	\$9,408,902	\$9,408,902
Museum Admission	\$1,368,119	—	\$1,368,119
Membership	\$595,709	—	\$595,709
Rental Fees	\$1,179,701	—	\$1,179,701
Donations	\$1,813,890	—	\$1,813,890
Sales of Goods and Services	\$284,584	—	\$284,584
Federal Grants	\$89,435	\$924,306	\$1,013,741
State Historical Fund—Administrative Charges	\$382,778	—	\$382,778
Interest	\$96,922	\$181,042	\$277,964
	\$15,182,479	\$10,514,250	\$25,696,729

### EXPENDITURES

State Historical Fund—Preservation Grants	—	\$6,810,422	\$6,810,422
Museum Operations	\$4,385,659	—	\$4,385,659
Certificates of Participation (COP)	\$3,021,718	—	\$3,021,718
Capital Construction	\$543,796	—	\$543,796
Facilities—HCC and Community Museum Maintenance	\$2,716,157	—	\$2,716,157
Administrative and Support Services	\$2,241,134	—	\$2,241,134
Restricted Gift/Grant Projects	\$1,990,638	—	\$1,990,638
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation	—	\$1,936,831	\$1,936,831
State Historical Fund—Administration	—	\$1,361,894	\$1,361,894
State Historical Fund—Administrative Charges	—	\$382,778	\$382,778
Community Museums and Historic Properties	\$1,510,045	—	\$1,510,045
Development and Membership	\$889,950	—	\$889,950
	\$17,299,098	\$10,491,925	\$27,791,023



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

History Colorado is proud of the many partners who are engaged with our organization. In 2015, we forged powerful new partnerships to inform both exhibits and programs. In the fall the History Colorado Center hosted *RACE: Are We So Different?* at a time when our country was holding tough discussions about race. History Colorado felt strongly that we had an opportunity to open dialogue in the community and bring partners to the table for conversations that were as informed as they were timely—and more than fifty community partners agreed, joining us in this effort. In addition, the exhibit and accompanying programs were generously sponsored by AARP, Facing History and Ourselves, The Denver Foundation, and Telemundo. We appreciate what each and every partner brought to this exhibit and to these valuable conversations.

Another new partnership success was *El Movimiento: The Chicano Movement in Colorado*. To accompany the popular national traveling installation *The 1968 Exhibit* at the History Colorado Center, we worked with community advisors from across the state to create this Colorado-centric companion exhibit. Advisors met regularly to review content, develop story lines, and tell their personal tales of activism. Many of the objects and photographs featured in the exhibit, which remains on view, came from the personal collections of these advisors. AARP and the Abarca Family Foundation generously sponsored *El Movimiento*, and another companion exhibit, *CHICANO*, went on view at Denver's Museo de las Americas.

The ongoing dedication of corporations, foundations, other cultural organizations, agencies, and community members enables History Colorado to fulfill its mission of engaging the citizens of Colorado to look to the lessons of the past as they forge their state's future.



*El Movimiento Community Advisory Committee, back row (from left): Adriana Abarca, Ramon Del Castillo, Juan Espinosa, Deborah Espinosa, Antonio Esquibel, Emanuel Martinez, Lucha Martinez de Luna, Phil Hernández, Ernesto Torres, Roberto Rey, Ricardo La Foré*  
*Front row (from left): Gail Gonzales, Charlotte Gonzales, Carlos Santistevan, Cecilia Flores, Rita Martinez, Priscilla Falcón, Nicki Gonzales*  
*Not pictured: Magdalena Aguayo, Dana EchoHawk, Maruca Salazar, Daniel Salazar, Ruth Sanchez, David Atekpatzin Young*

## THE VOLUNTEERS OF HISTORY COLORADO

In 2014–15, 423 volunteers generously contributed 33,850 hours of service, which had a monetary value of \$849,800. The Volunteer Council awarded thirteen grants for History Colorado programs in Denver and at community museums across the state, with a total value of \$12,486.

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!



### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rae Wiseman, *President*  
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## THANK YOU TO OUR 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, 2014, and ending on June 30, 2015.

### \$25,000+

Anonymous (2)  
Colorado Historical Foundation  
Jean Emery  
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The Charles M. & Faye G. Schayer  
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### \$10,000-\$24,999

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Marcia Strickland  
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Margaret & James Truly

\*Deceased



The We ♥ Rocky Mountain National Park exhibit at the History Colorado Center highlights 100 years of this most cherished Colorado locale. Shown here is early park champion Enos Mills, with Scotch.

Mr. & Mrs. William B. Tutt  
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Mountain Sky Area  
University of Denver  
Gloria & Jim Volker  
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Sharon Wilkinson

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\*Deceased



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*Gifts received in memory of:*

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 Margaret & Carl Gaumer  
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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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For more information about making a tax-deductible donation or leaving a legacy gift to History Colorado, please contact the Development Department at 303/866-4477 or [development@state.co.us](mailto:development@state.co.us).

History Colorado strives to produce the Annual Report donor and giving member recognition lists without errors or omissions. If we have made a mistake, we apologize and appreciate your calling it to our attention. Please contact us at 303/866-4477 or [development@state.co.us](mailto:development@state.co.us).



*The History Colorado Center's seasonal "Collections Close-Ups" bring out key artifact collections for visitors.*





## WHAT'S NEXT?

History Colorado continues to build upon our foundation of inspiring and engaging Coloradans through the stories of our rich and diverse past. Our new board has been exploring additional ways that we can give you the opportunity to step into that story—and bring it into the future.

Our board and staff are also looking at strengthening and building partnerships that help us preserve and interpret Colorado's history. We have expanded our collaboration with the University of Colorado to include the Center of the American West, and are working with our preservation partners on an updated statewide historic preservation plan.

Our staff is working to share the stories of Colorado's diverse history and cultures. The newly reorganized exhibit team, working with State Historian Patty Limerick and other leaders, is in the research and development phase of a new set of exhibits at the History Colorado Center. These exhibits will thematically approach Colorado historical issues and make use of our vast archives and collections.

The Ute Indian Museum in Montrose is undergoing a 3,000-square-foot expansion, which will increase capacity for events, education programs, and a renewed exhibit on Ute culture and history. This museum is one of the few state-owned museums dedicated to a single indigenous group. History Colorado continues to consult with the three Ute tribes on the building design and exhibits to develop a truly collaborative project.

In addition to our robust State Historical Fund grants that help municipalities and nonprofits, in March 2016 we issued our first approval letters for the new state historic preservation tax credits. This partnership with the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade helps commercial and residential building owners offset the costs of rehabilitating and restoring historic buildings. In 2016, these and other programs will take the spotlight with the fiftieth anniversary of the benchmark of our nation's preservation law: the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with you as we build a stronger History Colorado.

Steve Turner, AIA  
Deputy Executive Director and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

*Ute Indian Museum expansion, courtesy Chamberlin Architects*



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*A thoughtful moment in The 1968 Exhibit*



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