



HISTORY COLORADO

AT A GLANCE

- ✓ History Colorado is the trade name of the State Historical Society, originally established in 1879.
- ✓ The History Colorado Center opened in Denver in 2012 and houses exhibits, a research center and library, as well as state historic preservation offices.
- ✓ History Colorado is an agency of the state and considered an institution of higher education located in the Department of Higher Education.
- ✓ It is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization.
- ✓ It provides assistance to local and regional historical societies and museums.
- ✓ It maintains museums and historical sites throughout the state.

History Colorado acts as a trustee for the state in collecting, preserving, exhibiting, and interpreting collections and properties of state historical significance. Among its many and varied responsibilities, History Colorado administers historic preservation grants and ensures public access to statewide cultural and heritage resources through regional museums and other special programs.

State Historical Fund. The fund is a statewide grants program that was created by the 1990 constitutional amendment allowing limited gaming in Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek. The amendment directs

that a portion of the gaming tax revenues be used for historic preservation throughout the state. Grants are based on a competitive process and all projects must demonstrate public benefit and community support.

Regional museums. History Colorado operates eight regional museum sites.

Byers-Evans House Museum. The 1883 Byers-Evans House is a historic landmark in Denver and was home to two prominent families. Approximately 11,000 visitors tour the house on an annual basis to see the polished wood finishes, patterned wallpapers, ornate mantles, period draperies, and family furnishings that represent the period between 1912 and 1924.

El Pueblo History Museum. Located at the site of the original El Pueblo trading post in downtown Pueblo, the property includes archaeological excavations and a re-created 1840s adobe trading post and plaza. The museum showcases the city's history and the region's cultural and ethnic groups and attracts nearly 60,000 visitors per year.

Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center. Established in 1858 as a military outpost, the fort protected early settlers in the San Luis Valley and was commanded by frontiersman Kit Carson from 1866-67. Nearly

The State Historical Fund historic preservation grants program has awarded over \$286 million in grants to all 64 counties across Colorado since its inception in 1993.

10,000 visitors a year tour original adobe buildings, infantry barracks, and exhibits about the Buffalo Soldiers and the preservation of the fort.

Fort Vasquez Museum. Located near Platteville, the fort was established in 1835 as a fur-trading post and was the first permanent structure built along the South Platte River. The fort was abandoned in 1842, but History Colorado continues to preserve it and perform adobe restoration. Nearly 5,000 visitors a year view the reconstructed adobe fort and related historical exhibits.

Georgetown Loop Historic Mining and Railroad Park. Constructed in 1884, the Georgetown Loop Railroad is a popular tourist attraction located between Georgetown and Silver Plume. Around 135,000 visitors ride the historic railroad and stop for guided tours of a historic silver mine, railroad depot and an interpretive center every year.

Healy House Museum and Dexter Cabin. Located in Leadville, the 1878 Healy House has been restored and features Victorian furnishings from the region's mining pioneers. There is an 1879 log cabin residence of a local mining investor next to the house. Open from May to October, about 2,000 visitors yearly tour the house, cabin, and gardens.

Trinidad History Museum. The museum features several attractions on one block in Trinidad's historic district, including landmark homes, the Santa Fe Trail Museum housed in an adobe building, and gardens. Approximately 7,000 individuals visit these attractions per year.

Ute Indian Museum. After three years of renovations, this Montrose-based museum reopened its doors to the public in June of 2017. The museum offers one of the most complete collections of Ute Indian artifacts in the nation.

House Bill 16-1352 allows for moneys in the State Museum Cash Fund to be appropriated for exhibit planning, development, and build-out at all State Historical Society facilities, rather than just for the new museum (History Colorado). The act further specifies that \$3 million, plus interest, shall be retained as a controlled maintenance reserve for the new museum.
