



125

YEARS

of Pikes Peak

REGIONAL HISTORY



Colorado Springs
PIONEERS MUSEUM

LETTER *from the* BOARD PRESIDENT



In 1896, a group of passionate individuals with a mission to collect regional artifacts and stories formed the El Paso County Pioneers Association. Today, the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum expands this mission to build a lasting connection to the Pikes Peak region by preserving and sharing our cultural history.

2021 was a year of celebration and community connection with two significant milestones – the 125th anniversary of the CSPM and the 150th anniversary of the City of Colorado Springs.

- ▶ **The CSPM led the Sesquicentennial Commemoration of Colorado Springs** with a new, wildly popular **COS@150** exhibit, engaging lectures, tours and other programs. The museum and staff served as a resource for numerous articles, events and activities throughout the community.
- ▶ **Visitors returned to the museum in droves.** Despite the challenging and uncertain times, and bolstered by the sesquicentennial, museum attendance recovered to **66%** of the pre-pandemic visitation.
- ▶ **CSPM staff oversaw a grant-funded project to upgrade the HVAC equipment at our collections storage facility.** This monumental undertaking, while not public-facing, has vastly improved environmental conditions for artifacts and archival materials entrusted to the museum's care.
- ▶ **And, thanks to generous supporters like you, we met our fundraising goals and raised \$435,000 to support the museum's mission.**

All of these accomplishments are shared in this 125 Years of Pikes Peak Regional History report. I hope you enjoy reading these fun facts and feel a sense of pride – it could not have happened without you. Thank you for your generous support, both through your gifts of time and financial contributions!

Sincerely,

Laurel Prud'homme
Board President

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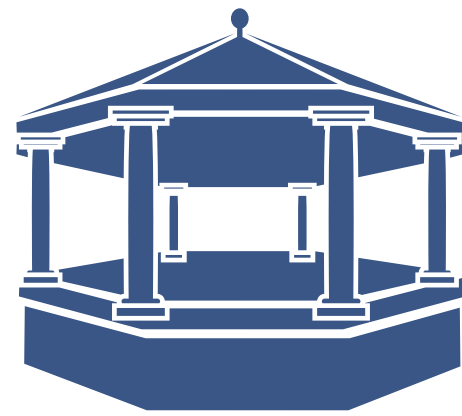
SESQUICENTENNIAL

MILLIONS
of stories considered,

150
CHOSEN

for inclusion in the
COS@150
exhibit

GAZEBO
Rehabilitation
PROJECT



COMPLETED



1 Amazing Story
of Us (SOU)
Mobile Website



5 Curated
tours
on SOU
Mobile



PEDAL OUR PAST

history-themed bicycle
tours created for
Bike to Work Month

5,000

150th Passports Printed



Sculpture of
General William
Jackson Palmer
conserved by
Pacific Coast
Conservation
on June 19, 2021.

12 Artifacts created by the community
to commemorate the anniversary.

TOP 5 Online *COS@150*
Stories:

- 1 Nikola Tesla
- 2 Holly Sugar
- 3 Denver & Rio Grande Railway
- 4 Mama Susie Perkins
- 5 Sinton Dairy

3,100



children impacted by
school programs

MORE THAN
\$435,000
Raised to support the CSPM's mission

1
New Teacher
Resource Guide

12
sold out COS150
Downtown
History Strolls



“

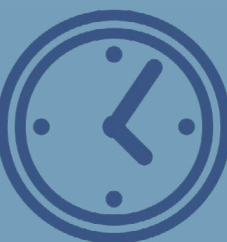
“If you want a quality museum experience go learn about Colorado Springs at the Pioneers Museum. The New 150 anniversary of the city exhibit was incredible. As a free museum, it can't be beat.”

- CSPM Visitor

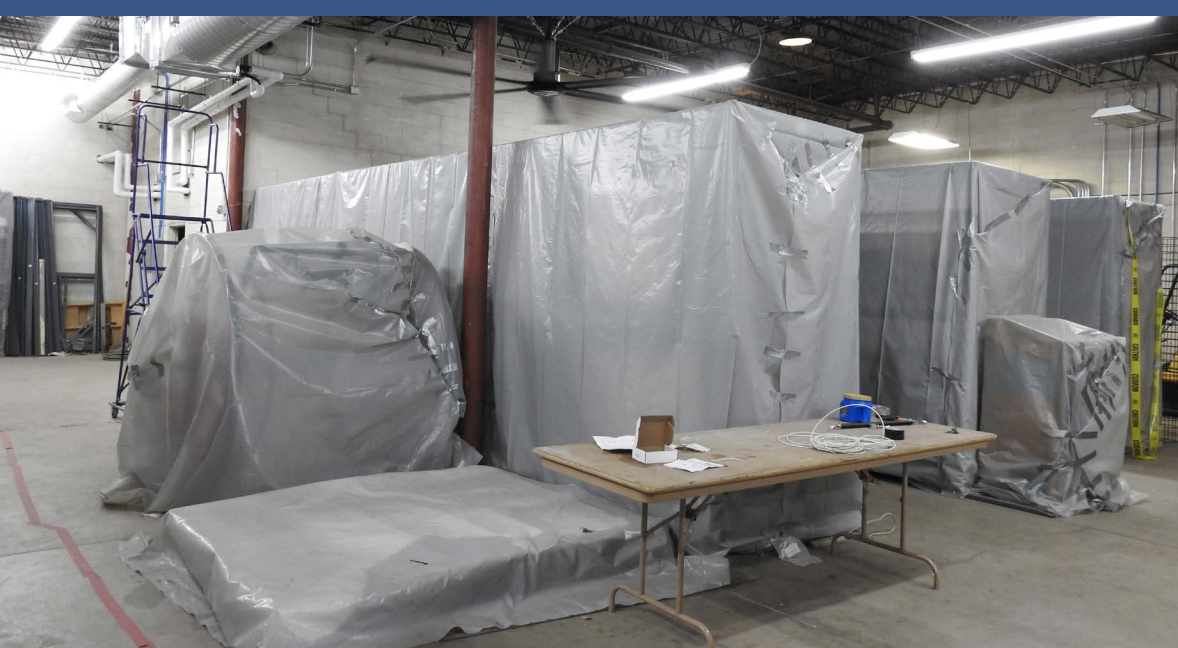


78 Volunteers
contributed

4,391 service hours
to the CSPM



OFFSITE STORAGE FACILITY



35,000 Feet of plastic sheeting used to cover shelves and artifacts

STRATEGIC PRIORITY COMPLETED



“

“The HVAC System still needs to be fully addressed in the offsite storage facility... We do believe that it is important that the staff remain vigilant and that the needed upgrades remain the highest capital priority for the museum and its support organizations.”

-- AAM Accreditation Site Visit Committee, 2019

3.5 Months spent preparing the space for construction

1 Collection assistant hired to help with the project



6 Destratification Fans installed to mix air throughout the space

10 Contractors and subcontractors involved in the project

2 Carriages and 1 horse cart moved throughout the project

Completion of HVAC project increased the institution's storage capacity by **25%**

2 Holes cut in the roof to install the HVAC units (don't worry, they were sealed up immediately!)

4 1950s era gas powered ceiling heaters removed

2 New water heaters installed

3 Digital control sensors installed

1 Strategic Priority Capital Project Completed

2 Rooftop units placed on the building by 1 crane

2 Humidification units installed

1 Floor drain added to the utility room

500 Feet of ductwork installed

2 New electrical boxes and hundreds of feet of new electrical wire



COLLECTIONS

6 Acquisitions committee meetings

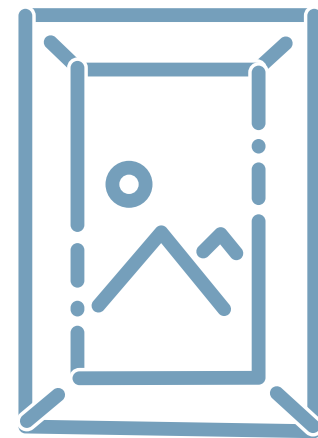
111

Archival donations



58
Artifact donations

5 Paintings by the Broadmoor Art Academy Artists



Approximately

1,000

pairs of gloves worn by collections staff



1

Sculpture added to the collection, *Meet Me at the Farmers Market* by Fred Darpino

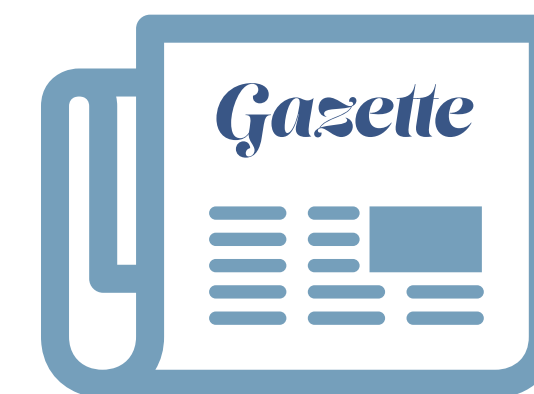


Pocket watch owned by James Burns donated by his great-grandson, James Burns IV

2 *Story of Us* Units:
• B=Buffalo Soldiers
• P=Parks

1,095

Gazette Backpages articles published



LARGEST ARTIFACT

Piano purchased by Albert Bruening for his daughter Rose. It traveled to Colorado Springs from New York via train and oxcart.

SMALLEST ARTIFACT

Miniature cans of food that came with a dollhouse made by the Barela Family for a/an Helen Hunt Elementary School project.

OLDEST ARTIFACT

Archeological materials received as part of the museum's role as a state repository.

NEWEST ARTIFACT

Norman Lansing bowl and Debra Box parfleche commissioned for the upcoming exhibit "Until Forever Comes: This is Ute Homeland."

QUIRKIEST ARTIFACT

A Toothbrite doll made by a local dentist to send to soldiers during WWII. The doll features a small cap in the head which dispenses floss and a hole in the foot that distributes tooth powder.

LARGEST CONSERVATION PROJECT

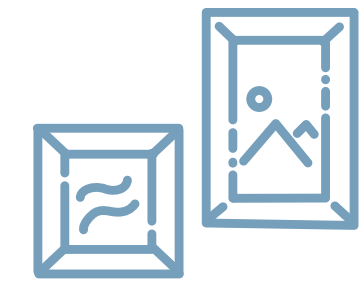
1919 trolley map received conservation treatment.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

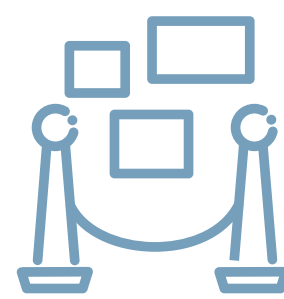
COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- El Pomar Foundation
 - Pikes Peak Library District
 - Colorado College
 - Gazette
 - McAllister House Museum
 - Colorado Springs Day Nursery
 - KRDO
 - Keysight
 - Pikes Peak State College
 - Norwood
 - Poor Richard's Downtown
 - Imagination Celebration
 - KRCC
 - Space Foundation
 - Trails and Open Space Coalition
 - African American Historical and Genealogical Society of Colorado Springs
 - Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival
 - Downtown Partnership
 - Colorado Springs Independent
 - Bristol Brewing
 - Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center
 - Out Loud Men's Chorus
 - Golden Lotus Foundation
 - RISE Southeast
 - Colorado Springs Switchbacks
 - Stroud Family
 - AdAmAn Club
- and more!*



35

Portraits & photographs selected for new City Council Chambers exhibit



20

Student-curated photos in Colorado College partner exhibit *Orange Skies*



101

Oral history interviews conducted

98

Tours/talks/media interviews by Curator of History



VISITATION



"I went on Saturday as one of Conejos' past residents is my son's godmother. It is very interesting and they even have a video playing in the exhibit with artifacts that were donated by the residents of the neighborhood. It is truly amazing."

- CSPM Visitor



RECEIVED

3

"BEST OF" AWARDS



from Colorado Springs Independent, Colorado Springs Gazette, and Colorado Springs Business Journal



TOP VISITOR QUESTIONS:

Which one is Pikes Peak?

Is this the courthouse?

What did this building used to be?

Is the elevator safe to use?

Is the yellow marble real?

66,743

VISITORS

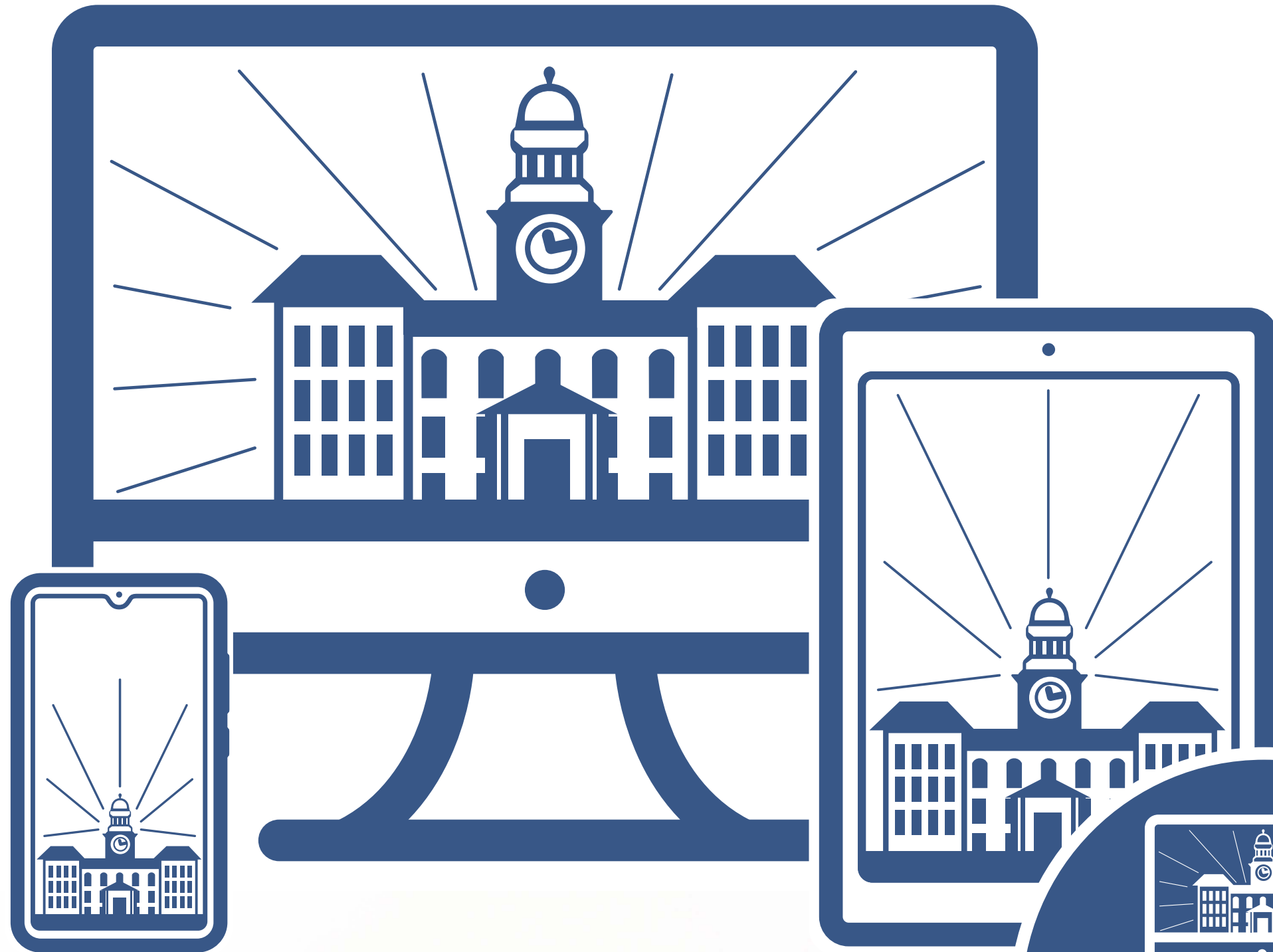


52%

WERE WALK-IN VISITORS



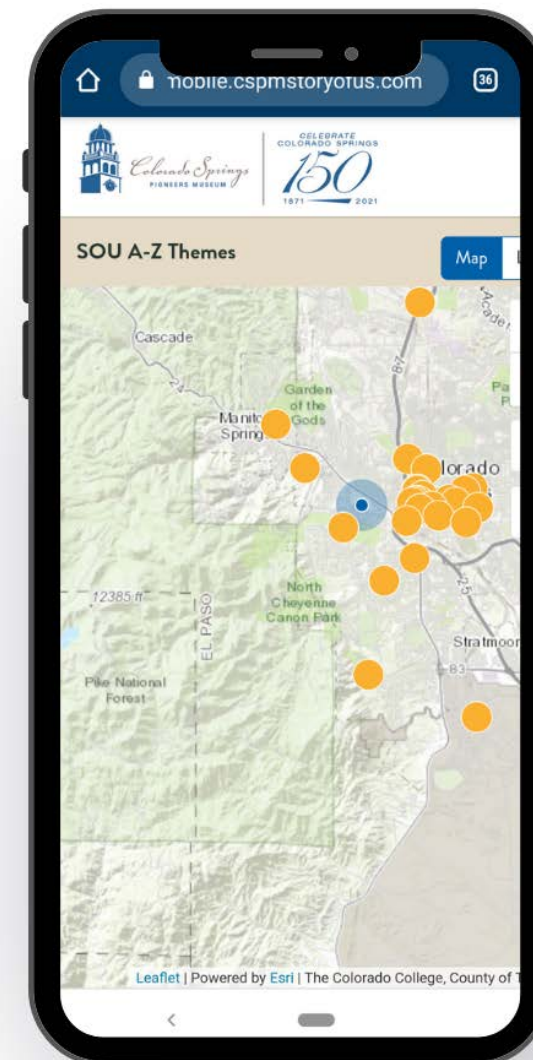
DIGITAL PRESENCE



185,623
Website visits



1,646
students attended virtual
school programs



STORY of US

Explore the History & Geography of the Pikes Peak Region
Have fun exploring our interactive story-telling project that combines artifacts, photographs, stories and dynamic maps to bring history and geography to life!

A New Way to
Explore History
on the Go

<https://mobile.cspmstoryofus.com>

405


New Instagram followers

Reached
14,000


Facebook followers

179


New Twitter followers

10,119


Hours watched on YouTube

Thank you to our financial supporters who make an impact at the CSPM everyday!

\$50,000
City of Colorado Springs LART
Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum Foundation
T. Rowe Price Foundation

\$25,000 - \$49,999
The Emery Family
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