125 YEARS OF PIKES PEAK
REGIONAL HISTORY
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
“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

150th Passports Printed: 5,000

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

12 sold out COS150 Downtown History Strolls

1 New Teacher Resource Guide

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

5,000 150th Passports Printed

3,100 children impacted by school programs

4,391 service hours contributed by 78 volunteers

“AMAZING STORY OF US” Mobile Website

Curated tours on SOU Mobile

PEDAL OUR PAST

history-themed bicycle tours created for Bike to Work Month


121 sold out COS150 Downtown History Strolls

78 Volunteers contributed 4,391 service hours to the CSPM
"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
COLLECTIONS

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 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.”

QUIRKEIEST 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.

6 Acquisitions committee meetings

58 Artifact donations

5 Paintings by the Broadmoor Art Academy Artists

111 Archival donations

Approximately 1,000 pairs of gloves worn by collections staff

1 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

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

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
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?

“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

VISITORS

- 66,743
- 52% were walk-in visitors

RECEIVED

3
“BEST OF” AWARDS

185,623 Website visits

1,646 students attended virtual school programs

405 New Instagram followers

14,000 Facebook followers

179 New Twitter followers

10,119 Hours watched on YouTube

A New Way to Explore History on the Go

https://mobile.cspmstoryofus.com
Thank you to our financial supporters who make an impact at the CSPM everyday!