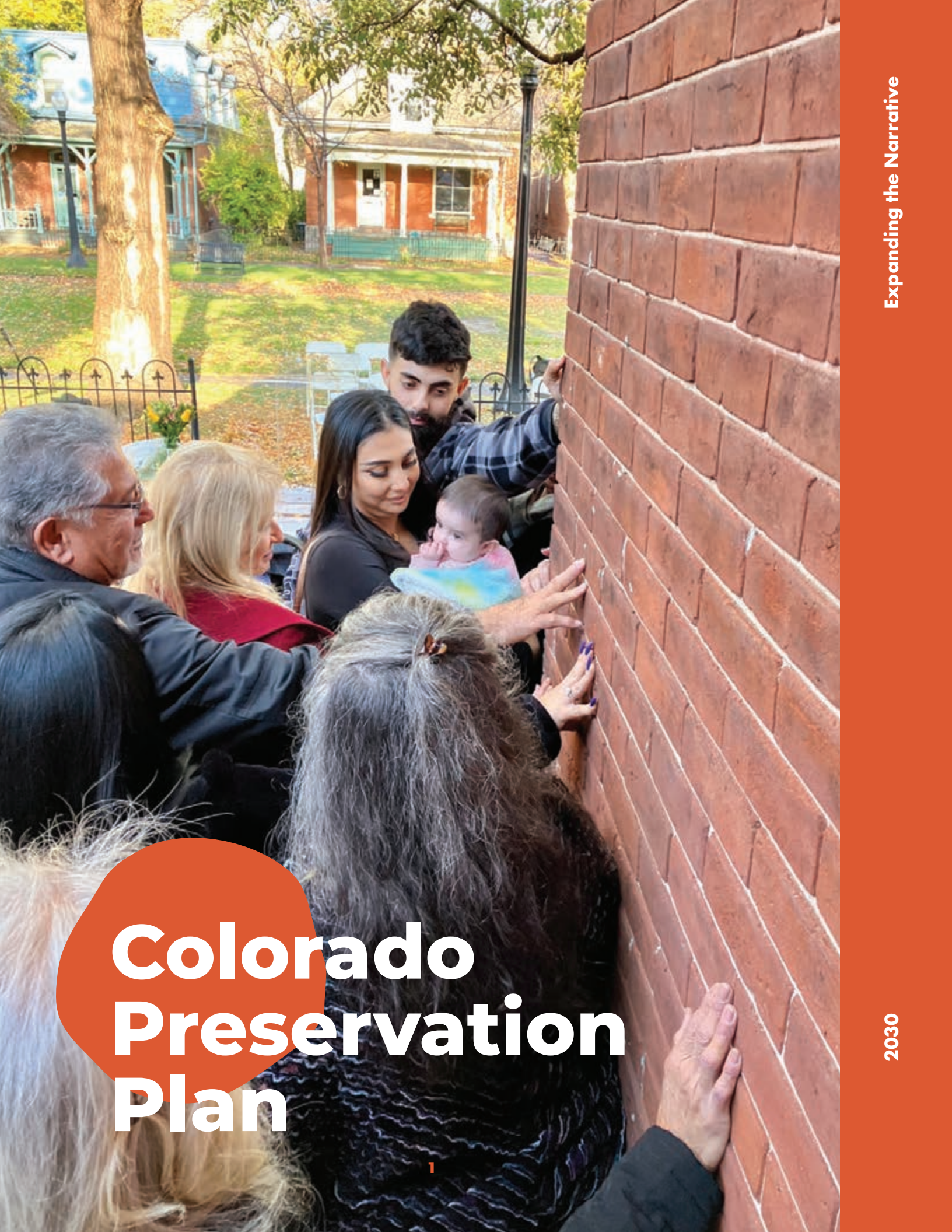




Colorado Preservation Plan

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Cover Photo:
Centennial House
Blessing,
Denver

Photo Credit:
Annie Levinsky



Section 1

Pictured:
Ute Royalty,
Denver

Photo Credit:
Liz Cook

Acknowledgments

Contributors

History Colorado | State Historic Preservation Office

Established in 1879, History Colorado serves Colorado communities through preservation programs, archeological work, museums and exhibitions, collections stewardship and access, research, and education. With 11 museums and historic sites, the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Colorado State Historical Fund, education and engagement programs, and a collection of more than 15 million objects and archives, History Colorado is the most significant force in protecting Colorado’s cultural resources, and is deeply committed to caring for and co-authoring the state’s shared history with all Coloradans. History Colorado’s programs not only restore and give fresh purpose to old places, but infuse energy into urban, rural, and mountain communities. History Colorado takes seriously the responsibility to lead historic preservation planning activities and provide guidance for effective decision-making about historic property preservation throughout the state. As both an agency of the State of Colorado and a nonprofit, History Colorado’s mission is to create a better future for Colorado by inspiring wonder in our past.

History Colorado Preservation Programs Committee | Advisory Committee

Appointed by History Colorado’s Board of Directors, History Colorado Preservation Programs Committee is charged with developing strategies and policies for the State’s historic preservation and archaeology programs, including the grant program of the State Historical Fund. With more than a dozen members across the state of Colorado, including three active members of History Colorado’s Board, the committee played a key role in community engagement, content review, and strategic guidance in the development of the State Preservation Plan.



Right:
First Annual People’s
Choice Hart Community
Award, Haynie Site,
Montezuma County

Special Thanks

We extend our sincere gratitude to the many individuals and organizations across the state of Colorado who actively participated in the collaborative development of this plan through surveys, interviews, focus groups, and plan reviews. We express our sincere gratitude for everyone’s invaluable contributions, including Radian, a Colorado-based architecture and urban design nonprofit, who provided contract support and development.



Photo Credit: Sara Kappel





Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that the land currently known as Colorado has been the traditional homelands of Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. We are grateful to work in partnership with the 51 sovereign nations who continue to call this land home. Together, we plan exhibits; collect, preserve, and interpret artifacts; do archaeological work; and create educational programs to share the history of Colorado.

Pictured:
Blessing at Fort Garland
Museum & Cultural
Center, Costilla County

Photo Credit:
History Colorado

Right:
Chicano/a/x Murals Endangered
Places Announcement,
Denver

We, as History Colorado, embody the grounding virtues listed below as the foundation of all aspects of our work: our thinking, communication, process, outcomes, and evaluation.

We commit to work that is guided by, for, and of the communities we build, belong to, and serve.

History Colorado's Grounding Virtues:

- ▶ **Being in Community**
- ▶ **Amplifying and Centering Voices of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color**
- ▶ **Co-creation and Shared Authority**
- ▶ **Humility and Reflection**
- ▶ **Responsiveness and Flexibility**
- ▶ **Shared Destiny**

Photo Credit: Patrick Eidman





Photo Credit: Paul Wedlake & CU Denver

Executive Summary

Above:
Centennial House, 9th
Street Historic Park,
Denver

The 2030 Colorado Preservation Plan, *Expanding the Narrative*, aims to guide the preservation sector in the collaborative effort to preserve Colorado's historic built environment, archaeological sites, cultural heritage, and significant landscapes. With an emphasis on how preservation can support the social, economic, and environmental priorities of Coloradans, this plan outlines a bold vision for actualizing expansive and just preservation

efforts that are driven by the voices of Colorado's people and communities.

Historic preservation is uniquely positioned to serve Colorado communities and meet needs statewide, including housing, economic, social, cultural, and environmental resiliency.

This plan outlines a bold vision for actualizing expansive and just preservation efforts that are driven by the voices of Colorado's people and communities.

By preserving the significant physical sites and resources of the past, and celebrating and sharing the practices and stories of the people who built and inhabited them, historic preservation can reinforce and reflect Coloradans' unique identities; their sense of community and belonging; their ability to thrive and succeed; and their agency in developing creative solutions for current and future challenges.

Our Collective Vision

Anyone can be a preservationist; this plan acts as a guide to continue to build and diversify

Colorado's preservation ecosystem and align efforts so that preservation work is increasingly equitable and relevant to all Coloradans.

Implementing the strategies and accomplishing the goals listed in this plan will require a collective effort, leveraged resources, and cross-sector partnerships that include government agencies, nonprofits, academic institutions, community groups, local residents, and preservation advocates. It will require multiple sectors, industries, and trades to collaborate including construction, housing, planning and development, education, environmental conservation, arts districts, and many more.



Photo Credit: History Colorado

The 2030 Colorado Preservation Plan intends to achieve these goals by:

- **Preserving and sustaining** the state’s tangible and intangible heritage by supporting the local stewardship of its historic and cultural resources.

By 2030, Colorado’s preservation sector will collaboratively preserve and steward our vibrant and diverse heritage—places of meaning and cultural significance, historic landscapes and ecosystems, stories passed down through generations, and diverse perspectives that more accurately reflect the histories and lived experiences of all Coloradans. The preservation of our archaeological, cultural, and overlapping histories, through the lens of local residents and communities, builds and rebuilds our collective sense of place and belonging, and shapes our society, economy, and environment now and in the future.

- **Educating and training** Coloradans in preservation knowledge, techniques, and advocacy.

By 2030, preservation education will strengthen cultural knowledge, foster strong local identities, build social cohesiveness, and cultivate a preservation workforce of the future to serve Colorado communities. Preservation will inspire and activate communities to conserve, restore, and share their relationship to place by embedding educational outcomes in historic preservation and vice versa.

Left:
Boulder Walker Ranch,
Boulder County

Preservation is at its best when the work engages and includes community residents and leaders throughout Colorado to ensure all efforts are reflective of local voices, priorities, and wisdom.

Photo Credit: Department of Agriculture

Below:
Department of Agriculture
Photo Contest



Teaching about preservation's role in addressing Colorado's current and future challenges and elevating unheard stories, places, and identities is essential to identifying preservation gaps, available support mechanisms, and prospects for local stewardship. Preservation education and training can demonstrate the relevance and overlap of historic preservation to a wide range of subjects, skills, and sectors, expanding preservation opportunities as a vocation, a source of innovation, and an inspiration for entrepreneurship.

- **Including and recognizing** the rich and compelling stories of all Coloradans, past and present, by honoring the places that define our shared history.

By 2030, all Colorado communities will feel included and supported and have access to a range of opportunities to engage and participate in preservation activities. Preservationists must tailor outreach and engagement practices to be accessible and culturally relevant to all communities, specifically those that have not been served by preservation, and to foster and deepen relationships that lead to meaningful and responsive preservation efforts.

It is essential that the preservation sector listens to, learns from, and empowers community residents and leaders throughout Colorado to ensure all efforts are reflective of local voices, priorities, and wisdom. Integrating collaborative decision-making, cross-sector partnerships, co-authorship, and collective ownership for community preservation projects can build more resilient and reflective outcomes. The success of this plan depends on intentional and sustained engagement between professionals and the local community.



Photo Credit: History Colorado

- **Engaging and co-creating** with Colorado’s communities, and learning from them how to make preservation relevant, effective, and meaningful in tackling local issues.

By 2030, Colorado will have an expansive historical record that is inclusive of its many stories, traditions, communities, and knowledge-sharing practices. Our shared past is composed of multifaceted stories and preservation can support our collective understanding of this tapestry of narratives and their connection to place. As Coloradans, we are committed to honoring, celebrating, and acknowledging the beautiful and sometimes challenging histories experienced by the diverse people of Colorado. Our shared history must amplify and center the voices of those who have been omitted in the past. By creating an expansive historic preservation practice, we can seek to build trust with communities and create space for accountability and agency.

Colorado, by virtue of being a crossroads of many cultures, has always had a rich tapestry of people calling it home—from thousands of years ago to the present. Past generations of Coloradans have shaped a deep and vibrant historic environment full of meaningful places imbued with their culture, dreams, traditions, and lived experiences. As we look toward 2030, we seek to listen to this archive of human experience and learn from the wisdom of those who came before us. Historic preservation in this era must continue to challenge itself to be more representative of our state’s expansive history and include more than the restoration of physical spaces; it must hold itself accountable to all Coloradans—past, present, and future—and expand the narrative.

Left:
El Pueblo Museum Hands on
History Program,
Pueblo

Context

Coloradans have long valued history, archaeology, and the preservation of our treasured places. In fact, the State Historical Society of Colorado was founded in 1879, just three years after Colorado became the 38th state on August 1, 1876. Now called History Colorado, this organization has become an integral, thriving state agency devoted to the mission of engaging all Coloradans about our shared past and preserving the state's rich built and archaeological resources for a better future.

When the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) passed in 1966, Colorado was one of the first states to appoint a State Historic Preservation Officer. Today, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is part of History Colorado and is responsible for administering federal preservation law at the state level by reviewing nominations for the National Register of Historic Places, maintaining data on historic properties, consulting with Federal agencies during Section 106 consultations, operating the Certified Local Government Program, and

administering the federal tax credit program. In 1973 the Office of the State Archaeologist was created to provide guidance relating to the identification, documentation, and protection of archaeological resources. Over time, the State of Colorado became a recognized leader in historic preservation and remains dedicated to continuing this important legacy.

The National Park Service (NPS), which oversees the implementation of the NHPA, mandates that each state and territory create a 10-year state plan to guide preservation goals and activities for the coming decade. This plan provides a vision, inspiration, and roadmap, for everyone engaged in the work of preservation across the state. History Colorado and the State Historic Preservation Office will certainly play an important role in supporting this work, through project implementation, funding, regulatory processes, recognition programs, and more, but the plan's goals can only be achieved through ongoing collaboration and the collective efforts of local communities to engage in meaningful preservation activities.

Right:
Community Celebrates Removal of
Inaccurate Plaque,
Historic Chinatown, Denver



Photo Credit: Colorado Asian Pacific United

**This plan provides a vision,
inspiration, and roadmap,
for everyone engaged in
the work of preservation
across the state.**



Photo Credit: Garrett Briggs

Plan Development Process

Left:
The Ute STEM Project,
Great Sand Dunes National
Park and Preserve

What we heard

Throughout the fall and winter of 2019, History Colorado staff held 22 public meetings in 14 localities and gathered comments from hundreds of participants across the state. Staff also sought input from the 51 Tribes who call all or part of Colorado their ancestral land and met with the State Review Board, a State Preservation Plan Focus Group, students from the Preserve America Youth Summit, the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists (CCPA), state and federal agencies, and other stakeholders in historic preservation.

The results of this intensive collection effort culminated in a survey in January 2020 in which more than 200 respondents provided valuable feedback on objectives suggested at the listening sessions. Respondents were asked the question “Why do you think historic preservation is important?” A large majority, 57 percent, felt that promoting and sustaining community and group identities was the single most important benefit.

These responses from the public revealed a strong desire for and support of a more responsive preservation ethic in Colorado.

Many of the ideas, objectives, and priorities established during the 2019 process are integrated into this plan.

However, immediately following the close of the statewide survey deadline, the COVID-19 pandemic spread to the United States, requiring History Colorado to close its doors and adjust to remote work while weathering the intense pressures experienced by workplaces across the country. The summer of 2020 brought a nationwide plea for reckoning with America’s past. By the end of the summer, Colorado also suffered from devastating wildfires linked to extreme weather changes that created conditions such as large areas of dead timber, severe drought, and high winds.

Recognizing the importance of the sweeping social, economic, and environmental changes facing Colorado’s communities, and after a pause and extension in the plan timeline, History Colorado initiated another phase of outreach and engagement in early 2023, intending to connect with voices not reflected in the earlier outreach and to ensure that the plan is guided by input, perspectives, and

Right:
Black American West Museum,
Denver

values shaped by the immense societal change of the intervening years.

The 2023 engagement and planning process included several meetings with History Colorado’s Preservation Programs Committee, as well as the State Review Board and the History Colorado Board. Additionally, History Colorado hosted four targeted focus groups to reach communities and stakeholders not previously represented in the 2019 public engagement process. Two of these focus groups were virtual and two of the focus groups were hosted in person. Certified Local Government and Non-profit partners, such as Colorado Preservation, Inc., Historic Denver, the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area, and the Colorado Historical Foundation were also included in these sessions. Tribal partners and THPOs from the 48 tribal nations that consider Colorado home were also invited to a dedicated focus group, and participated via survey. History Colorado’s Preservation Program Committee also actively participated in focus groups and held special sessions regarding the plan development. The Committee includes representatives from many diverse communities, including Indigenous, Black, Latino, and rural representation.

These focus groups utilized engagement practices such as translation services. The focus groups were complemented by an online survey shared broadly in English and Spanish. The 2019 survey reached 205 individuals, while the 2023 survey received over 120 responses and reached a wide cross section of Coloradans. A broad array of ages, races, ethnicities, geographies, and genders were represented.

Photo Credit: Lynn Popkowski





Left:
Savage Library,
Gunnison County

Photo Credit: History Colorado

With more than 500 total touchpoints between 2019 and 2023, the 2030 plan is truly informed and guided by the suggestions, needs, and priorities of a diverse range of Colorado’s residents, communities, and organizations. While the following list is not exhaustive, these are some recurring themes from the various engagement methods that highlight the need to expand the narrative of statewide preservation.

- ▶ Expand preservation to include stories, legends, and oral histories, and their connection to place.
- ▶ Preserve and honor language with the understanding that language, dialects, and words connect stories, places, and identities.
- ▶ Build accessibility into preservation education by encouraging field trips and site visits for youth to experience sites and landscapes for themselves.

- ▶ Reduce barriers to preservation programs so that a greater range of sites has access to resources.
- ▶ Build more awareness around the history of water and how it has shaped Colorado landscapes and communities.
- ▶ Find creative opportunities to recognize and acknowledge history connected to buildings and places that have been lost.
- ▶ Identify creative sources of funding and new partnerships to support the preservation of places and local heritage.





Above:
Ute Youth,
Uncompahgre Wickiup

Photo Credit: History Colorado

Doing the Work Together

The 2030 Colorado Preservation Plan, Expanding the Narrative, articulates an ambitious vision for Colorado’s preservation future that was co-created with communities from around the state. Achieving this vision will require active stakeholder involvement, ongoing plan stewardship, and the careful integration of goals and objectives into everyday decision making for agencies and local communities.

The success of this plan depends on the continued participation and engagement of all of Colorado’s vibrant communities.

The goals, objectives, and actions outlined here are designed to deepen our collective sense of belonging and connection to Colorado, its rich and complex history, and its unique historical resources, while also helping to meet the challenges Colorado communities face in the 21st century.

While History Colorado facilitated the collaborative process to develop this plan and will use it to guide its preservation programs, funds, and activities; this plan should also act as a guide for local groups from around the state to leverage, support, and coordinate their collective preservation efforts. This includes historic property owners,

federal agencies, Tribal partners, state offices, regional and local governments, Certified Local Governments (CLGs), museums, libraries, and the wide range of built environment professionals. It also includes the work of many partners that are adjacent to the goals in this plan. Ultimately, this plan is a reference guide to create a better shared future together.

Alignment with Existing Initiatives

In order for this plan to be successful it is important to understand and align existing preservation plans, programs, and initiatives. These programs can also serve as launching pads to achieve the plan goals, leverage existing investments, and measure progress.

As the state agency responsible for Colorado’s largest preservation programs, History



Right:
Ute Youth,
San Luis Valley

Colorado builds upon its existing strategic plan to advance preservation. Among the organization's goals are building long-term sustainability so that History Colorado can continue to be the backbone of preservation and regional history work, investing in rural prosperity in support of Colorado communities, strengthening Colorado through education, and sharing the expansive stories of Colorado.

In addition to operating the State Historic Preservation Office, History Colorado is home to the State Archeologist's Office and operates both programs as part of the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation.

As a state, Colorado is also fortunate to have the State Historical Fund, which provides grants that protect, sustain, and breathe new life into our beloved Colorado places and stories.

Projects range from planning and research studies to designation and preservation of historic buildings, archaeological sites, and historic places. This work is funded by limited stakes gaming in the towns of Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek. Over the last three decades, the State Historical Fund has generated nearly \$3 billion in economic impact across Colorado.

Photo Credit: History Colorado



The State Historical Fund will support this plan through continued work that spurs economic growth, advances sustainability, addresses injustices, revitalizes communities, and creates more affordable housing. Statewide projects are identified and completed with a focus placekeeping, expanded narratives, strength, vitality, and resilience.

The Colorado State Preservation Tax Credit, as well as the federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit, are also tools that support the work of this plan. Every year, the State Commercial Historic Tax

Credit program is given \$10 million to disperse to projects across the state. The program is jointly managed by History Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and the Office of Economic Development and International Trade. Since 2016, the program has seen over 1,000 active or completed projects totaling over \$82 million in credits. The office also manages the Federal Historic Tax Credit, which aligns with the state program in providing additional tax credits to qualified projects. In just the last year preservation tax credits supported the creation of more than

100 units of affordable housing. Other History Colorado initiatives that can be leveraged in support of this plan include the Colorado Heritage for All Initiative, an ambitious effort to increase representation on the Colorado Register of Historic Properties by listing 150 untold or threatened resources. This will be done as part of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the 150th anniversary of Colorado's statehood. History Colorado can also support communities in collective remembering, and the identification of historic places, through the

Right:
Sand Creek
Expansion
Ceremony,
Kiowa County



Photo Credit: Patrick Eidman

Museum of Memory program, a public history initiative that works together with Colorado residents to co-author a shared history. And, preservation values, practices, and resources can be shared through the growing Hands-On History program, which provides participatory history and culture-based programming for students ages six through twelve during times when school is not in session.

The curriculum is focused on interactive, hands-on, experiential-style explorations and offers interactive, engaging classes that intersect with the themes and topics specific to each community, including but not limited to Native American arts and traditions, handbuilding adobe and clay, homesteading, storytelling, archeology, preservation of places and culture, pottery, wool and fiber arts, pottery, jewelry crafting, and Folklorico dancing.

Over the last ten years, significant progress has been made engaging communities and identifying important sites and resources that were previously obscured or untold in preservation and public history efforts.

History Colorado and numerous partners, often with the support of the National Park Service, have developed surveys and context studies that should be used to advance the goals of this plan. For example, the African American Travel Sites survey, the Women's Suffrage in Colorado survey, Nuestras Historias (a Latino/Chicano Context Study for Denver), and the LGBTQ+ Statewide survey are all resources available to advance the work of preservation in the coming decade.

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs and its Main Street Program, Colorado

Creative Industries, and other state agencies offer further opportunities to leverage existing initiatives, especially as these programs receive an infusion of funding related to statewide affordable housing investments. Certified Local Governments (CLGs), which include communities with formal preservation programs administered with guidance from History Colorado, as well as local governments conducting heritage programs on their own design, will find many opportunities to plug into this plan, and can use this collective vision as a roadmap and

to inspire local action. Community nonprofits, grassroots organizations, and others can use this plan to learn about preservation in Colorado and find strategies to catalyze action for the places they love. This plan is a living document and its usefulness depends on its ability to remain flexible, responsive, and co-owned. As preservation best practices continue to evolve and the Colorado context of climate and population changes, the plan will best achieve the intentions of its vision by staying nimble and adaptive to truly expand the narrative.

Below:
Descendants and residents
of The Dry receive SHPO
Agricultural Legacy Award,
Southeast Colorado



Photo Credit: History Colorado



Left:
Ute Indian Museum Opening,
Montrose

Photo Credit: History Colorado

How To Use This Plan

The 2030 Colorado Preservation Plan is a visionary document that serves two main purposes. First, it helps to define the goals and approach of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Second, the plan is a framework for coordinating the goals and activities of the history, preservation, culture, and heritage community statewide and those individuals and organizations that are not part of the SHPO. While History Colorado guides the statewide

historic preservation planning process and will use this plan to guide its programs, funds, and activities going forward, History Colorado hopes this Plan can act as a guide for local communities from around the state. This plan outlines the need to expand the preservation narrative, the historical context on why that is necessary, and the concrete goals and objectives that can support preservationists in collectively achieving this vision.

Looking Ahead to 2030

A Co-Created Future

VISION 2030: Preservation serves and inspires Colorado communities by connecting people, places, and stories to honor our shared history, strengthen our collective sense of belonging, and build a more vibrant and resilient future.

The historic environment—the combined built, archaeological, and cultural landscapes that exist throughout Colorado—is a tangible representation of the intangible, connecting our histories, biographies, and cultural traditions to our identities and sense of place.

Even subconsciously, this historic environment touches all aspects of our lives and the obstacles we face—whether social, economic, or environmental. In this context, the physical places of our past are powerful tools that help our communities build local resilience and vibrancy, address and heal disparities, and adapt to the challenges of climate change and natural disasters.

Right:
South High School
Denver County

Photo Credit: Patrick Eidman

Overcoming these challenges through the preservation and stewardship of our built and archaeological heritage is our collective responsibility that allows the storied past to shape and expand our present understanding of the world. Preservation can also provide us opportunities to experience archeological sites, cultural landscapes, and the historic built environment; honor and celebrate the stories of our past and their connection to place; and to pass on these lessons for generations to come.

The 2020 Colorado Preservation Plan, *Preserve Places that Matter*, outlined an insightful vision that is still very much the driving force behind the excellent work being done today. But as the historic preservation movement bends towards the middle of the 21st Century, Coloradans must now let our places, stories, traditions, buildings, and landscapes guide all Coloradans toward a better and more just future.



The 2020 plan sought to identify and preserve threatened resource types, particularly communities previously not included. It focused on the need for creating new historical contexts that provide spaces to engage communities in preservation and on realizing environmental sustainability through 'greening' historic structures and adaptive reuse. This work is ongoing, and the substantial achievements found throughout this plan should not be understated.

Preserve Places that Matter set the stage for this 2030 plan defining the relationship

between environmental sustainability and historic preservation. It also outlined vital ways for Colorado to redress systemic inequalities by preserving important places in our most underserved communities. Recognizing the importance of rooting preservation in place, the 2030 plan seeks to more deeply integrate diverse stories into our work.

As Coloradans, we understand that Colorado's heritage is informed by our stories—our intangible knowledge, traditions, and lived experiences—often told through physical reminders in buildings,

We understand that Colorado's heritage is informed by our stories—our intangible knowledge, traditions, and lived experiences—often told through physical reminders in buildings, archaeological sites, and our culturally rich landscapes.



archaeological sites, and our culturally rich landscapes.

The physical resources of the past are non-renewable, and the stories they tell are ever-changing as our perceptions and understanding of history shift with knowledge, social context, and cultural perspective.

Preserving the physical reminders of the past is, therefore, vital not only to maintaining the imprints of what defined our cities, towns, and landscapes, but also to our sense of individual and collective identity.

For 2030, History Colorado, in partnership with all Coloradans, seeks to build on this and will focus on how Colorado's preservation efforts will address the creation of an equitable and inclusive future across all of our communities. The 2030 Colorado Preservation Plan recognizes the continual need to

identify, recognize, evaluate, and preserve historic and archaeological assets, along with cultural and working landscapes. Historic preservation serves an essential purpose in nurturing personal identity in an intercultural world, teaches critical thinking skills, lays the groundwork for strong communities, inspires the leaders of tomorrow, and creates a foundation for a better future.

This plan intends to deepen Colorado's preservation priorities to ensure the fullest breadth of people, places, and stories are represented, and to strengthen our collective understanding of the role that intangible heritage plays in connecting identity and place. It will also encourage the preservation sector to work in collaboration with local communities to expand and elevate the narrative of whose stories are being told, preserved, and celebrated, and define various pathways to honor the fullest expression of Colorado's history.



Section 2

Pictured:
Tallman Ranch,
Jefferson County

Photo Credit:
History Colorado

Right:
Animas Forks,
San Juan County



Photo Credit: History Colorado

Past to Present

Colorado's Historic Environment

Throughout millennia, this place has been home to countless individuals, each contributing to the evolution of our shared history, distinct cultural identities, and cherished landscapes. Colorado's archaeological, historic, and cultural

resources compose its collective historical environment—an array of places intertwined with our human stories that bridge the past to the present.

This historical environment encompasses not only tangible elements, including the built

environment and cultural landscapes, but also the intangible aspects of our heritage. Language, festivals, music, art, cuisine, and legacy businesses define the unique, and sometimes overlapping, cultural identities and expressions of diverse groups. Together, these tangible and intangible resources contribute to the individuality and identity of place, enriching the cultural heritage experience for all Coloradans.

This summary of Colorado's past—and our present—focuses on select themes and

turning points in the state's story, and is not a comprehensive summary of all the people, places, or moments that have shaped the places—our built environment and cultural landscapes—that we experience today. Instead, this section seeks to provide important context for this plan, and for the vision to expand the narrative, especially highlighting histories that have been previously obscured or neglected in the work of archeology and preservation.

The story of humans on the land now called Colorado extends back to the Paleo-Indians, the ancestors of Native Americans and the first inhabitants of the Americas.

The eastern portion of Colorado comprises the expansive dry rolling prairie of the High Plains, while the western portion supports extensive forests, mesas covered in brush, and the rugged topography of the Rocky Mountains. In the past, like today, this topography and vegetation affected where people lived, how they fed themselves, and the tools they used to survive. Each generation carved out areas to live and work, and many of these places remain indelibly etched in the landscape. Combined, they tell a 15,000-year story of human struggle, compromise,

Right:
Birch Ruins,
Larimer County

Photo Credit: History Colorado

and perseverance in the beautiful but often harsh Colorado climates.

Indigenous History

For thousands of years, Colorado’s original inhabitants engineered ingenious solutions to survive in an area with challenging topographies and often dramatic shifts in climate. The oldest evidence of human activity is from 12,000 BCE to 7000 BCE and is connected to hunting-oriented cultures that emerged through challenging conditions to populate many of the lower elevations of Colorado by the end of the last Ice Age. What followed was a long era (nearly six millennia) of relatively stable, semi-nomadic, hunter-gatherer lifeways defined by seasonal

migrations through traditional territories. Archaeologists frequently find remains of camps, structures, and stone tools used for hunting and processing large game, but little else to tell the story of these people, their experiences, or beliefs.

In 1932 the Dent Site, near Greeley, Colorado, was first excavated by Regis College (now University) geology professor Father Conrad Bilgery followed by Colorado Museum of Natural History archaeologist Frederick Howarter in 1933. The site, which contained both mammoth bones and human-made spear points, specifically the large fluted projectile now known as the “Clovis point” was some of the earliest evidence for deep antiquity. Other work at the Dent Site followed through the 1990s, as well as subsequent



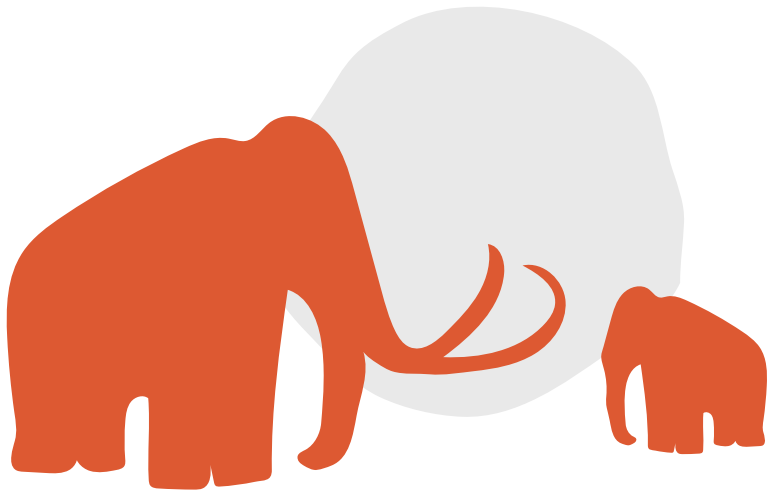
discoveries of other ancient sites, all of which point to a dynamic and complex suite of cultures focused on hunting large mega-fauna like bison as well as smaller game and extensive plant use.

In 1990, History Colorado submitted a multiple property National Register of Historic Places nomination for Prehistoric Paleo-Indian Cultures of the Colorado Plains, ca. 11,500-7500 BP to the Keeper of the National Register. The nomination included 55 Paleo-Indian occurrences: four isolated finds, 16 sites, 11 probable sites found by testing or in avocational archaeologists’ collections, and 24 Paleo-Indian components based on surface finds of projectile point fragments. Of these, five sites have been thoroughly documented: Lindenmeier, Olsen-Chubbock, Jurgens, Claypool, and Gordon Creek Burial. Since the nomination, more evidence of

Paleo-Indians has been found, such as at the Mountaineer Site in Gunnison County, which is extraordinary in the identification of pithouses dating back 8,000 years.

From approximately 1000 BCE to 1450 CE, a period of experimentation with horticulture and animal domestication, and a positive climate for growing crops, led to radical changes in settlement and subsistence.

During this period people were increasingly inhabiting sedentary villages and practicing corn-based horticulture augmented by foraging in warmer parts of Colorado. With the introduction of technological changes such as ceramic and bow-and-arrow manufacture, life in many ways was more efficient, yet more complex and competitive than in previous eras.



**Modern Tribes,
descending from these
communities, continue
to inhabit western
states and recognize
this area as ancestral
territory, marking a
seamless continuum of
Indigenous culture in
the region.**

Right:
Chimney Rock,
Archuleta County

Most identifiable sites in Colorado are associated with this period. The distinguishing feature of the period is the appearance of sedentary villages in southwestern Colorado, such as Mesa Verde, Hovenweep, Chimney Rock, Lowry Ruins, and Crow Canyon. Modern Tribes, descending from these communities, continue to inhabit Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado and recognize this area as ancestral territory, marking a seamless continuum of Indigenous culture in the region.

Exploration & Colonization

Spain declared New Mexico a territory, and until the Mexican War for Independence ended in 1821, Colorado was included in Spanish colonization efforts.

In Colorado, Spanish explorers—and later Hispano settlers and landowners—interacted with Indigenous nations in the San Luis Valley at this time including the Tabeguache, Muache, and Capote bands of the Nuche, or Ute people.

The San Luis Valley, and the Colorado we know today, were deeply affected by the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, signed in 1848. The Treaty set the stage for westward expansion in the United States by shifting the political border south from the Arkansas River to the Rio Grande and west to the Pacific coast. In the treaty, the Republic of Mexico lost 55 percent of its territory, some 525,000 square miles, to the United States. This land eventually became all, or parts, of the present states of Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, as well as

Photo Credit: History Colorado



a large portion of western and southern Colorado. A year later, the US government and local Ute leaders signed the Treaty of Abiquiú, which signaled to settlers that it was safe to move into the Valley.

In 1851 Hispanos from Taos, New Mexico, founded the town of San Luis, just west of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in southern Colorado. The impacts of the 1848 and 1849 treaties deeply affected the area. Shifting the U.S.-Mexico border transformed the citizenship, rights, and property claims of the Mexican nationals residing in the region and despite the treaty's assurances, regional residents were eventually dispossessed of their lands and wealth.

Women were disproportionately impacted as many of their rights under the Republic of Mexico—especially



their right to own land and property—were revoked following the signing of the treaty and occupation by the United States.

This redrawing of borders did not, however, alter the linguistic, ethnic, and geological boundaries that were already taking shape in places like the San Luis Valley in what is today southern Colorado.

The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo also marked a turning point for Indigenous people, as settlement efforts increased and accelerated the displacement of Indigenous tribes. The Treaty has also been referenced in hundreds of court cases ranging from international border disputes to water and mineral rights claims and is still at issue today in some Colorado communities.

As trade routes and settlements expanded across Colorado in this period, including the Santa Fe Trail, Indigenous people, including the 48 tribes that still consider Colorado home, faced broken treaties, illegal settlement, and violent removal. This includes the events of Colorado's deadliest day, the Sand Creek Massacre on November 29, 1864, during which more than 200 Cheyenne and Arapaho people were killed, and the Tribes ultimately forced out of the state.

Right:
Silverton,
San Juan County



Photo Credit: History Colorado

Trade & Transportation

Colorado's historic environment is a combined testament to the challenges, adaptations, failures, and triumphs of the past. The recent history of Colorado is intimately connected to the history of its natural resources—water, willow trees, gold, silver, cattle, oil, gas, sugar beets, and sagebrush.

These resources drew people to Colorado over many decades, fueling both trade and transportation networks. In particular, the discovery of gold in Colorado in 1859, along the banks of the Cherry Creek near present-

day Denver, drew more and more settlers, and miners, to the territory despite assurances by the US government that the land would remain in Tribal ownership. Towns grew almost overnight across Colorado's Rocky Mountains.

In 1870 Colorado was connected to the Transcontinental Railroad via a spur from Denver to Cheyenne, Wyoming. All of a sudden a journey from the eastern United States that once took months was shortened to days. With Denver's rail connection, combined with the natural resources in the mountains and the growing farming and



Photo Credit: History Colorado

ranching operations, Colorado became a major trade and transportation hub.

Train depots, stores, hotels, schools, churches, sanitariums, and other structures from the late 19th and early 20th century remain extant in many communities that developed in connection to trade, mining, and transportation.

Agriculture & Ranching

By the 1870s agriculture and ranching were established in Colorado, including the farming systems of the San Luis Valley, which relied on acequias for irrigation, and communities in northern Colorado, like the Chicago-

Colorado community near Longmont, established by settlers from the Midwest, and which also relied on a communal system of water use.

At the same time, cattle trails from Kansas brought herds into Colorado, and after the violent removal of Indigenous people, large ranchers could graze their cattle on the wide-open lands. However, this led to environmental impacts, as prairie grasses suffered from overgrazing and drought. A brutal winter in 1886 to 1887 started a shift in practice and the enclosure of ranch lands that both changed and created working landscapes.

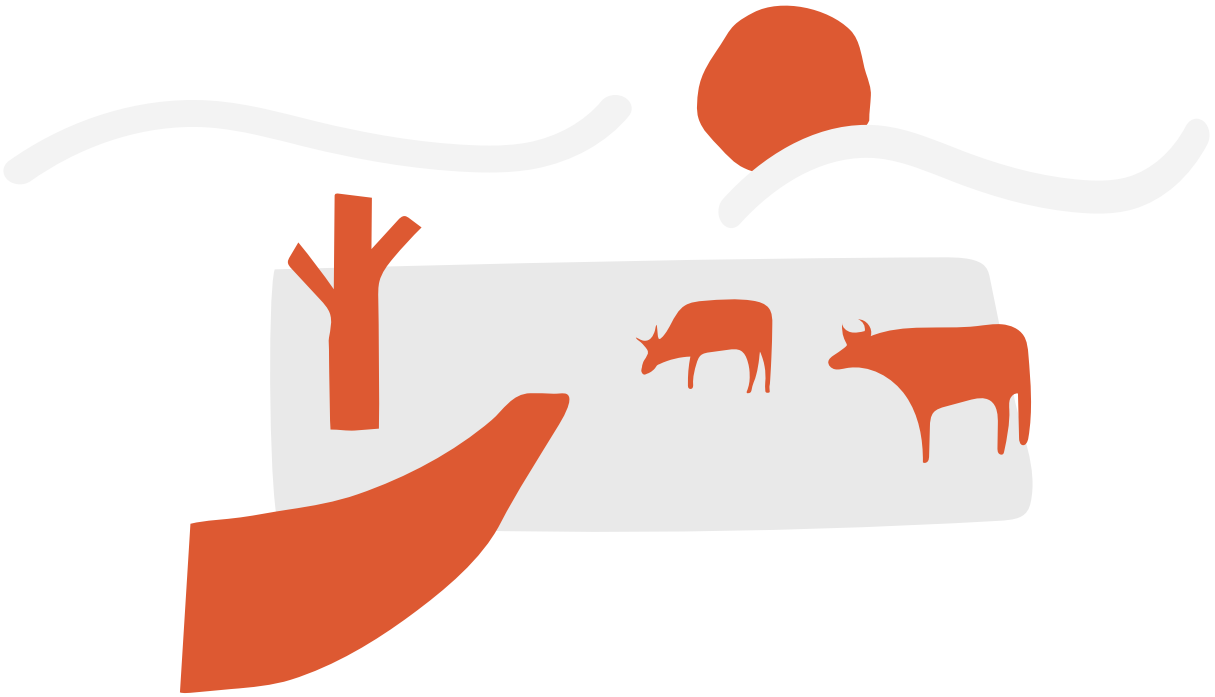
Left:
Georgetown Loop Railroad,
Clear Creek County

Another agricultural industry that had a profound effect on the development and growth of Colorado was sugar beet production.

More than twenty sugar-refining factories were built in the early 20th century and at one time, the Colorado-based Great Western Sugar Company was the largest producer of beet sugar in the United States. However, all but one of the sugar factories have closed and many are vacant or demolished. While

the sugar company owners have been widely studied and celebrated in Colorado history, the histories of the labor force are less well known and present an important opportunity to better understand the homes and neighborhoods they built and their impact on the development of Colorado.

Built resources from this mid-19th century period include wooden structures, as well as an increasing use of brick and stone, for commercial, institutional, and residential



Right:
Department of Agriculture
2010 Photo Contest

structures as fire was a constant threat. In southern Colorado, adobe continued to be a common material for buildings of many types. Cultural landscapes connected to farming and ranching, such as irrigation systems and homesteads, also represent this period of Colorado's history.

Many of the cultural resources in Colorado that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and State Register of Historic Properties date to this period of Colorado's history between the mid-19th and early 20th century. In fact, most of the tens of thousands of documented cultural resources in Colorado date from just two and a half centuries of occupation by non-Indigenous people.

Industrialization, Growth & Urban Development

By the beginning of the 20th century trade and transportation related to mining, farming,

Photo Credit: Marni Matiner



ranching, and other enterprises were in full industrialization mode. This fueled the growth of cities and towns well connected to transportation networks and workers. While the silver crash and economic recession of 1893 temporarily slowed development and construction statewide, by the turn of the century, new investments flowed into the state, along with new residents. For example, Denver's population nearly quadrupled between 1890 and World War II.

Below:
Department of Agriculture
2009 Photo Contest

Photo Credit: Dan Ballard



In this period residential construction boomed, with typical Colorado homes built in Victorian styles, and bungalows proliferated in cities large and small. Larger-scale office buildings, often banks and hotels, emerged along the front range, and tourism became big business, especially automobile tourism along scenic driving routes.

Colorado's cities began adopting zoning codes that sought to separate residential, industrial, commercial, and civic uses, and which also contributed to segregating communities, particularly isolating and under-resourcing African American, Indigenous, Latino, Asian American, and other communities of color. Starting in the 1930s, federal maps of American cities identified with a red outline deemed neighborhoods "hazardous." Realtors used these maps to segregate neighborhoods based on race and religion, while home loans and insurance were denied to residents of redlined areas. Over time, cities denied infrastructure investments in redlined neighborhoods, creating "blight" later used as justification for demolition and urban renewal.

Militarization & Post World War II

The development of Colorado's built environment slowed during the Great Depression, but by the end of World War II, pent-up demand for housing drove a new wave of construction. New federal installations, including military bases, research facilities, and work centers, attracted newcomers to the state, driving another period of intense population growth.

In many places throughout the state, land was transformed from largely rural, agricultural use with a handful of nearby factories into populated and prominent suburbs.

However, urban and suburban development were shaped by federal regulations, local lending, land-use decisions and ordinances that created patterns of segregation into the growth of American cities and new suburban communities.

Suburban development was also aided by the automobile, cheap fuel, and new federal, state, and regional road systems. Towns across Colorado had to rapidly think about infrastructure and municipal growth in ways that were often chaotic and neglected the importance of cultural heritage. The suburbs were associated with new single-family homes and green lawns, auto-friendly shopping,

clean new industries, quality schools, parks, and other amenities.

The post-war period in Colorado was also marked by movements to secure civil rights, with major rallies, protests, and organizing actions taking place across the state.

As Colorado's post-war economy boomed, veterans, students and community organizations sought to ensure that all Coloradans could benefit from the prosperity, as well as securing civil rights within workplaces, schools, and justice and political systems.

Below:
Durango Power Plant,
La Plata County

Photo Credit: History Colorado



Outdoor Recreation & Tourism

Aided by the development of railroads to the Colorado territory, tourism has long been an important factor in the Colorado economy and built environment. While many came to experience the incredible natural splendor of the rugged Mountain West, medical tourism was also a major cause of visits to the Centennial State. The allure of clean air and an arid climate was particularly compelling to those afflicted with tuberculosis. In response, sanatoriums and other treatment facilities were built in the late 19th Century.

Skiing, which was first introduced to Colorado out of a utilitarian need for high-country transportation, experienced a remarkable surge in popularity following WWII as recreational interest in downhill skiing grew. The ski industry and real estate development were often closely connected, and as a result, skiing has had an outsized influence on the built environment in Colorado. With millions of annual visitors, the history of the ski industry—and the impacts of today’s growth and development on historic ski towns—is an important and pressing concern for historic preservation.

Photo Credit: History Colorado



Below:
Telluride,
San Miguel County

Leisure travel in Colorado is not limited to skiing, but in fact, reflects a wide range of activities across every region of the state. From bird watching, hiking, hunting, leaf peeping, and sightseeing to mountaineering, boating, and cycling, the tourism economy has a profound influence on virtually every community in Colorado. Communities with vibrant, historic downtowns are particularly well positioned to maximize the economic benefits of heritage tourism travelers, but may then also face more intense development pressure and rising property values that place historic resources at greater risk for demolition and loss.

In 2019, a report on the impact and importance of archaeology to Colorado found that federally administered archaeology-related parks, monuments, and historic sites in Colorado—such as Mesa Verde, Colorado’s only UNESCO world heritage site—generated an economic impact of more than \$80 million. The economic and cultural impact is further compounded when taking museums and scenic and historic byways into account.

Right:
St. James
Episcopal Church,
Rio Blanco County

Photo Credit: History Colorado

Rapid economic transformation is creating demographic shifts, gentrification pressure, housing shortages, displacement, and growing income and geographic inequities.

Economy & Demography

Colorado is changing as its population grows in size. Rapid economic transformation is creating housing shortages, demographic shifts, gentrification pressure, displacement, and growing income and geographic disparities. Adding to these changes, the environment and landscapes are impacted by

deepening droughts, intensifying floods, and increasing temperatures.

Colorado's evolving demographics and economics have and will continue to impact historic preservation work and the state's historic and cultural resources. As 2020

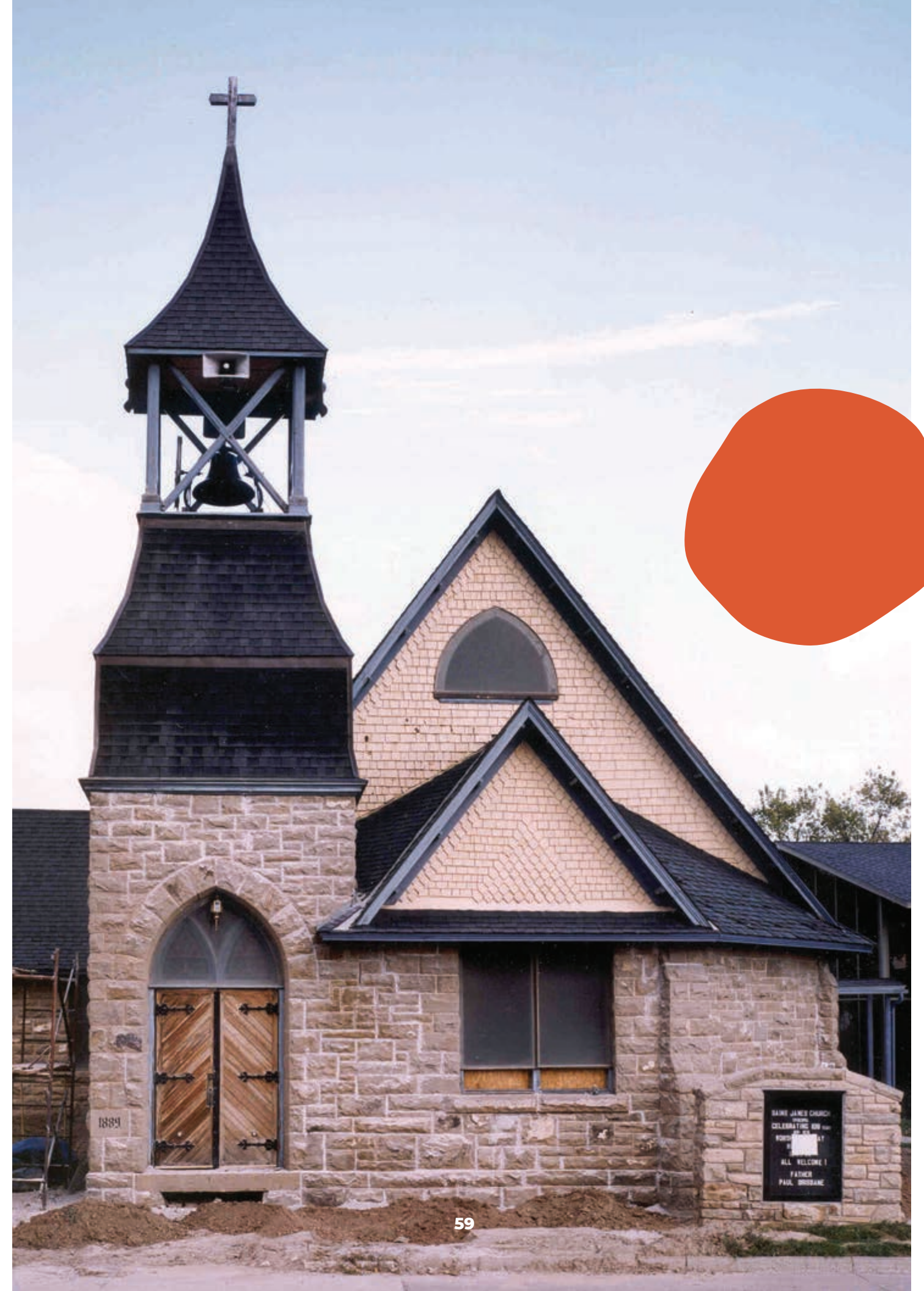




Photo Credit: History Colorado

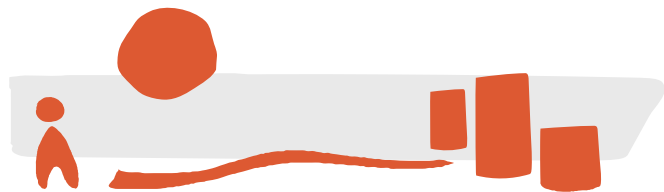
catalyzed a reckoning with America’s past, citizens sought ways to expand limited narratives, deepen understanding across divides, and support reconciliation and repair. Tensions over the control of stories—who tells them and who is represented—are clear in debates regarding monuments, place names, curriculum, textbooks, and what has preservation integrity.

Preservation as envisioned in this plan is an opportunity to address—and to a degree redress—the injustices of the past.

The success and growth of Colorado’s economy are intricately tied to the social and economic progress of its increasingly

transitioning labor force. The persistent disparities in income, employment, opportunity, and health pose a significant threat to individuals, their families, and the state as a whole.

Colorado’s Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) estimates the state’s population today to be 5.8 million, an increase of 15.7 percent over the 2010 population. By 2030 the population is projected to be 6.7 million, an increase of 14.5 percent over 2020, and 8 million by 2050. This growth rate is expected to continue into the next decade, straining the state’s infrastructure and economy and exacerbating challenges related to housing affordability. Growth has not been evenly distributed across the state with the Front



Left:
Picture Name,
Ouray County

Range, along the I-25 corridor, growing at a much faster rate than other areas. For instance, the Front Range experienced the most rapid population increase, while the Eastern Plains, Central Mountains, and the San Luis Valley grew less rapidly. These trends are expected to continue.

Urban & Rural Communities

Colorado is a diverse state with a spectrum of town typologies including densely populated urban cities and towns that make up the Front

Range Urban Corridor, mountain ski-town communities, rural towns, and vast expanses. The “urban-rural divide” in Colorado, like in many other states, is complex and multifaceted, as no community type is homogenous, and each has its own unique economic, social, and cultural challenges and opportunities.

Economically, most rural areas in Colorado have demonstrated a slower recovery from severe economic events like the 2008 recession and the COVID-19 pandemic and struggle with shifting job markets, lack

Threatened resource types in Colorado include:

- ▶ Sites and locations associated with communities that are not currently well represented
- ▶ Cultural landscapes including farming, grazing, ranching, and water-related resources
- ▶ Civil rights struggle sites including Black Civil Rights, disability rights, the Chicano movement, women’s suffrage sites, and LGBTQ+ advocacy
- ▶ Sites and location type that have not been traditionally or formally preserved, such as murals, moradas, landscapes
- ▶ Resources under 50 years of age

of employment opportunities, business vacancies, and depopulation. While there is evidence that the number of farms in the state is actually growing, this does not necessarily translate to the revitalization of small-town main streets, which too often contain a number of increasingly deteriorating properties.

The recent influx of people moving into Colorado has been the largest source of change in Colorado’s population since 1970. Booming job markets in the late 1990s and between 2010 and 2020, led to large increases in new residents from California, Texas, Florida, and Arizona. According to the State Demography Office, the majority of people moving to Colorado are college-educated millennials in search of professional job opportunities, particularly along the northern Front Range between Fort Collins and Colorado Springs. Residents who live in Colorado’s urban centers or in mountain ski towns tend to face growth and development pressures associated with high costs of living, lack of affordable housing, and homelessness.

The urban-rural contrast is illustrated by shifting populations, with rural counties like Otero, Prowers, and Baca in the Southeast part of Colorado having lost about 10 percent of their population in the last 20 years, compared to the 33 percent population

Since the recession, the number of households in the region has increased at an annual rate that has far exceeded the availability of housing, consuming the surplus of housing units.

growth along the Front Range in counties like Denver, Arapahoe, and Douglas.

Housing

Prior to the Great Recession, there were more housing units in the seven-county Denver metro region than households. But, since the recession, the number of households in the region has increased at an annual rate that has far exceeded the availability of housing, consuming the surplus of housing units. As a result, demand has outstripped supply for nearly a decade and housing prices, rental rates, and property taxes have risen much faster than wages, causing housing to become increasingly unaffordable for many Coloradans. The inability of many to buy

Photo Credit: Benjamin Rasmussen

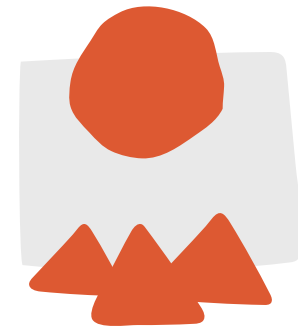


Right:
La Alma/Lincoln Park,
Denver



Photo Credit: History Colorado

Left:
The ghost town of
Animas Forks,
San Juan County



or rent housing has exacerbated issues of involuntary displacement of underrepresented and under-resourced communities, disproportionately impacting communities of color.

According to the US Census, in 2019 non-Hispanic white people in Colorado had the highest median annual income of \$87,980, followed by Asian Americans at \$85,839. At the other end of the spectrum, the median income for Indigenous and Black Americans stood at \$58,000, while Hispanic incomes hovered around \$54,500. With housing representing, on average, 35 percent of spending for households earning \$50,000 or less, housing unaffordability is becoming the most significant threat to family economic security in Colorado.

Currently, 50 percent of Colorado renter households are cost-burdened, with housing commanding more than 30 percent of total household income. Eighty-five percent of these cost-burdened households have annual household incomes of \$50,000 or less. Eleven percent of all low-income households in Colorado live in neighborhoods at risk of, or already experiencing, involuntary displacement pressures. These disparities have led many to move out of their longtime neighborhoods to other, less expensive parts of the state.

Economically, Colorado is experiencing slow but positive growth. Colorado continues to employ most people in the leisure, hospitality,

accommodations, and food services sectors, which reflects the emphasis on tourism throughout the state of Colorado. Jobs in each of those sectors are growing rapidly, and Colorado’s unemployment rate finally returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2022. Those returning to the workforce are generally workers ages 25 to 54, as workers older than that continue to exit the workforce. Even so, competition for employment remains high with more than average job openings and more transition between employers than pre-pandemic. However, the jobs that Coloradans do have are still not paying enough to keep up with inflation and the cost of housing and utilities continue to grow at an alarming rate.

Below:
Adobe Workshop,
Saguache, Colorado

Photo Credit: Michael Pacheco



Below:
St. Joseph’s
Catholic Church,
Denver



Photo Credit: History Colorado

Statewide demographic changes and economic realities will inevitably impact the state’s historic and cultural resources. Changes in demographics could influence an evolution in the preservation workforce, preservation project champions, and historic resource caretakers. New populations bring

new approaches, broader stories, and a more diverse field of preservation practitioners to Colorado. Additionally, the number and type of preservation and rehabilitation projects in urban and rural areas may experience fluctuations based on market forces and population needs.

Right:
Vogel Canyon,
Otero County

Statewide Environmental Impacts

Colorado is experiencing the effects of severe weather events, lingering drought and diminishing snowpack. Between 2000 and 2014, a tree ring analysis showed that water flows in the Colorado River were 19 percent below the 1906-1999 average.

As Colorado works to mitigate and adapt to environmental changes, the state's preservation sector must address related challenges and support communities in protecting their tangible and intangible heritage and cultural resources from these imminent threats.

As Colorado communities prepare for an uncertain future, they must extend environmental mitigation and adaptation strategies to also include the protection of historically significant sites, landscapes, and heritage-related natural resources. A recent study by staff at the University of Colorado Denver found that 17 percent, or 1 in 6, of Colorado's historic resources listed in the National Register of Historic Places and State

Photo Credit: History Colorado





Photo Credit: History Colorado

As precipitation decreases and temperature increases, Colorado's arid landscape becomes increasingly dryer and more susceptible to wildfires.

Register of Historic Properties are located in floodplains. With the increased risk of extreme flood events, such as those experienced in 2013 along the St. Vrain River in Lyons and Longmont, a significant proportion of our most valued historic places are at risk. Additionally, Colorado is considered one of the top three states with the highest wildfire risk. As precipitation decreases and temperature increases, Colorado's arid landscape becomes increasingly dryer and more susceptible to wildfires. In 2018, over 1,300 wildfires in the state burned approximately 475,000 acres, a steep increase from the historical average.

Left:
Ute Youth,
San Luis Valley

From 1980 to 1989, there were about 140 wildfires larger than 1,000 acres, compared to about 250 from 2000 to 2012. The large and extreme wildfire season of 2020, which included the three largest forest fires in state history, saw catastrophic impacts on more than 900 known cultural resources including historic ranches, homes, and recreational sites, many of which had been occupied for 100 years or more. The 2020 fire season was quickly followed by the Marshall Fire in Boulder County in late 2021, which was named the most destructive fire in Colorado's history.

Over the last 50 years, the state's average temperature has warmed by 2.5°F, with an accelerated growth of 2°F in the last 30 years.

Summer temperatures are getting hotter and for longer periods of time. This is leading to prolonged heat waves, droughts, reduced mountain snowpack to feed our water systems, wildfires, severe storms, and flooding. Colorado's ecosystems are suffering as a result, with reduced streamflows in the

watersheds, drier soils, and an increase in plant and animal diseases. The projections show that by 2050 Colorado's temperatures could rise even further between 2.5 to 5°F. Those living in cities will feel this change most acutely, where urbanization has created 'heat islands' of growing populations with inequitable access to efficient insulation, shade trees, and adequate air conditioning.

As Colorado becomes more seasonally arid and sea temperatures rise, the state will also experience more severe storms arriving from the west coast. More importantly, Colorado's key traditional industries will struggle to adapt, with agriculture in particular suffering from hotter, dryer conditions, and skiing impacted by reduced snowpack and earlier melts.

Preservation's Role within the Colorado Context

Preservation can only stay relevant and prove meaningful by continually listening to and

learning from community groups that represent all of Colorado's communities, by rectifying past injustices, and by evolving to adapt to the changing needs of Colorado.

Preservation is uniquely positioned to bridge lessons learned from our shared past to address present and future challenges by weaving the complexities and nuance of our collective history within our state's broader context and inspiring us to develop innovative, place-based solutions.

As Colorado strives to build resilience against destabilizing pressures, including economic shifts, workforce transitions, population change, housing availability and affordability, and climate change, preservation can play a distinct role in supporting various sectors in addressing their most pressing challenges as outlined in this plan's goals, objectives, and actions.

Right:
Crystal Mill,
Gunnison County

Photo Credit: Lindsey Flewelling



Section 3



Pictured:
UIM Montrose Opening,
Montrose

Photo Credit:
Liz Cook



Goals, Objectives, and Actions

Vision 2030: Preservation serves and inspires Colorado communities by connecting people, places, and stories to honor our shared history, strengthen our collective sense of belonging, and build a more vibrant and resilient future.

The goals, objectives, and actions for achieving this co-created vision cannot stand alone and depend on the success of one another. Although the goals below are separate and distinct, they are part of a continuum of effort that we, as Coloradans, can all work from. Together, we will work to:



1. **Preserve & Sustain**
2. **Include & Recognize**
3. **Engage & Co-Create**
4. **Educate & Train**

Left:
9th Street Historic
Park Blessing,
Denver

Photo Credit: Paul Wedlake & CU Denver

Goal 1: Preserve & Sustain

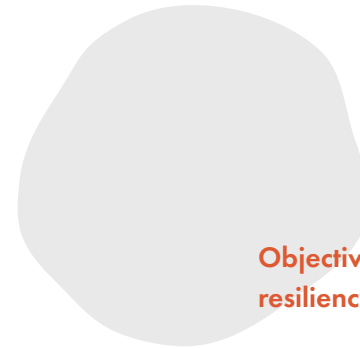
Steward the state's
historic and cultural
resources for the benefit
of all communities.

Objective A: Invest in the preservation of places and resources across all of Colorado's geographies and jurisdictions

1. Expand the State Historical Fund's role as an essential vehicle to support the preservation, economic vitality, and collective pride in communities of all sizes.
2. Document and recognize places of significance, including through listings on the State and National Register, to facilitate eligibility for preservation incentives and funding programs.
3. Prioritize sites and resources that are significant to community groups who have not been part of past preservation efforts and focus on increased documentation, education, and engagement funding or recognition programs.
4. Build opportunities to leverage preservation tools and incentives that mitigate the involuntary displacement of low- and middle-income communities.
5. Identify and partner with external funding sources (such as local foundations, housing agencies, and federal programs) for incentives to support a range of historic preservation projects that include solutions for housing rehabilitation, economic development, and energy challenges.
6. Increase collaborative efforts with other state agencies working in local communities, such as the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), particularly around issues of housing and resiliency.
7. Explore next-generation preservation incentives to promote reuse and the conservation of existing buildings.

Objective B: Integrate inclusive preservation priorities into local planning, community development, and policy-making efforts

1. Encourage local communities, including Certified Local Governments (CLGs), to integrate historic context studies and cultural resource surveys as part of comprehensive planning processes.
2. Develop and provide strategies for incorporating affordable housing in historic and existing buildings and districts through adaptive reuse, gentle density, and internal conversions.
3. Advocate for the removal of common barriers to rehabilitation and preservation projects such as changes to existing regulations for building and energy codes, materials, or parking minimums.
4. Promote the expanded use of cultural and creative districts to augment traditional historic district options and to enhance local cultural identity and sense of place, especially in communities that have experienced disinvestment.
5. Increase the number of Certified Local Governments (CLGs) and provide technical assistance to engage communities in local preservation and cultural heritage initiatives.
6. Support local governments to lead by example through thoughtful stewardship of publicly-owned historic assets.
7. Develop high-impact creative mitigation strategies related to Section 106 and required federal review processes.



Objective C: Connect historic preservation efforts to existing initiatives that support resiliency planning, sustainability, and environmental conservation

1. Protect cultural and historic resources before, during, and after natural disasters by participating in state and regional emergency management initiatives and local resilience planning.
2. Implement a resilient statewide curation plan for regionally networked facilities, including those that store archaeological collections.
3. Deepen cross-sector relationships with other industries to advance energy conservation, new technologies, and natural resource conservation through the preservation of buildings and landscapes.
4. Enhance guidance and support offerings for the inclusion of environmental sustainability in preservation projects, tailored to the local needs of diverse communities.
5. Explore synergies with energy-specific funding to encourage sustainable historic sites and buildings.
6. Co-develop collaborative projects with nature conservation partners and Indigenous community groups that honor the land, holistically benefitting natural and built resources.
7. Improve processes related to required review for federally funded projects and with federal agencies to ensure the best possible outcomes for local communities.

Goal 2: Include & Recognize

Reinforce a sense of collective belonging by building awareness, recognition, and respect for the people, stories, perspectives, practices, and traditions of Colorado's shared history.

Below:
Black American West
Museum Open House

Photo Credit: History Colorado



Objective A: Expand access to preservation and archeology programs for all Colorado communities

1. Audit and monitor preservation programs and processes and make measurable improvements to ensure easy access to participation for all Coloradans.
2. Reduce barriers to local and state register listings and preservation and grant funding programs by simplifying processes and instructions so communities can author their own nominations and applications.
3. Co-develop best practices that engage and support communities to update and amend existing historic designations to include more perspectives and voices.
4. Offer training and opportunities to reflect on the application of key preservation concepts, such as significance criteria, period of significance, and integrity, in order to remove barriers.

Objective B: Embrace local knowledge and lived experiences that connect place-based resources with cultural heritage and stories to build collective belonging in our shared history

1. Curate a collection of local examples of the connection between tangible and intangible heritage and why their preservation is mutually beneficial.
2. Embrace each community's local knowledge and lived experiences to co-develop programs, processes, and partnerships that preserve place-based cultural heritage.
3. Increase personal connections to historic resource surveys and designation by collaborating with community leaders (including educators, artists, and historians) and expanding knowledge sharing through photographs, visual art, oral histories, and literature.
4. Employ co-creation, storytelling, and collective memory practices, such as the Museum of Memory program, to collectively identify and interpret places of meaning for communities.
5. Partner with existing historic sites and heritage attractions statewide, including History Colorado's community museums, to ensure rich and complex histories are told through collections that highlight the role of place.
6. Promote museum collections and regional tours that amplify obscured histories as a focal point to educate the public about the broader archeological and historic contexts of specific regions.

Right:
Colorado Asian Pacific
United Event,
Denver

Objective C: Reduce barriers and enhance accessibility to support all communities regardless of resources and experiences

1. Make preservation and archeology information easily available by ensuring key print and digital resources are discoverable and accessible.
2. Demystify preservation processes by using less technical language and providing clear and simple guides on how to access tools and programs.
3. Leverage existing websites and other digital tools to tell stories of local community efforts to inspire a wider audience and spur broader involvement.

Photo Credit: Colorado Asian Pacific United



Goal 3: Engage & Co-Create

Engage the full spectrum of people, places, and communities across the state of Colorado through effective dialogue, outreach efforts, and new partnerships to increase the participation and access.

Below:
La Alma Mural,
Denver

Photo Credit: Historic Denver



Objective A: Deepen relationships with communities to identify and support community-led, -driven, and -beneficial preservation initiatives

1. Facilitate advocacy and engagement initiatives that demonstrate the need for and positive impacts of preservation incentive programs.
2. Meet with communities on their terms leveraging existing events, processes, and networks during site visits and listening sessions to build trust, relationships, and partnerships.
3. Host preservation workshops about community-identified, site-specific priorities to build knowledge, awareness, and participation.
4. Support community-based archaeology projects, preservation technical assistance, and regional cultural heritage initiatives with local partners.

Objective B: Cultivate wide-ranging partnerships to create a broad base of advocates who are able to advance local preservation efforts

1. Inspire community members and groups that have not traditionally participated in preservation efforts to become preservation advocates and partners by communicating the relevance and benefits of preservation within the context of their lived experience.
2. Proactively identify and initiate partnerships with organizations, institutions, and initiatives (such as faith-based organizations and art districts) that share mutual interests with historic preservation.
3. Work with rural communities to deepen relationships with partners (such as Trust for Public Land, Colorado Water Trust, CSU Extension Program, Cattlemen's Association, etc.) to examine how to advance rural prosperity while preserving public land, open space, farmlands, ranches, and other historic and agricultural resources.
4. Improve communication with all Tribal Historic Preservation Offices and Tribal partners to listen to needs and priorities and to co-develop ideas and opportunities for investment and collaboration.
5. Advance and expand local preservation networks by connecting traditional preservation organizations and nontraditional entities by organizing networking events, meetings, and workshops.
6. Monitor and advocate for state legislation with potential impacts on historic preservation initiatives.

Right:
Fort Garland Museum &
Cultural Center,
Costilla County

Objective C: Engage property owners and the larger real estate and development community to cultivate a shared understanding of the benefits of historic preservation

1. Collaborate with local leaders involved with downtown revitalization program opportunities that will increase housing availability and affordability and support local entrepreneurial efforts.
2. Provide technical assistance to historic property owners and real estate professionals, especially those along rural main streets and/or in at-risk locations, in order to advance their goals of rural prosperity and longevity.
3. Conduct continuing education classes on historic preservation for professionals, including realtors, developers, contractors, architects, and design and trades professionals.
4. Advocate for renewal of the State Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program as a tool for localizing development benefits.

Photo Credit: History Colorado



Goal 4: Educate & Train

Enhance the capacity of communities and preservation advocates to advance their own preservation priorities and promote the next generation of preservationists in Colorado.

Below:
Ann Batey at the historic
First AME Church,
Pueblo

Photo Credit: Shanna Lewis / KRCC News



Objective A: Design and deliver a spectrum of educational opportunities for diverse audiences

1. Co-develop educational opportunities with local education institutions and local government agencies on regional, community-driven preservation topics, including housing and climate change.
2. Prioritize educators during Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month and work to embed preservation education in curricular materials developed in partnership with History Colorado.
3. Expand PAAC (Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification) content, audience, and goals.
4. Organize annual outreach programs, such as “state of preservation” luncheons, annual meetings, summits, and forums with elected officials that showcase preservation successes, opportunities, and key advocacy needs.
5. Provide a database of preservation-related education opportunities offered by statewide partners for preservation professionals and community members.

Objective B: Cultivate meaningful and relevant opportunities for youth and adult volunteers to engage in preservation activities and deepen their understanding of our shared past

1. Collaborate with community partners to provide fieldwork opportunities and hands-on learning experiences, like the Hands-On History program, for people of all ages.
2. Partner with local schools, school districts, charter school operators, and other education professionals on developing new place-based history content in curricula that accurately represents the wide range of peoples and places of Colorado's history.
3. Provide robust tools for educators on historic preservation, archaeology, cultural heritage topics, and available sources for teaching about local historic places.
4. Develop digital storytelling tools that emphasize compelling preservation stories and how they relate to wide-ranging Colorado communities to garner more active and connected youth participation.
5. Partner with allied professionals, including craftspeople and contractors, to provide youth and adults with on-the-job training and learning opportunities.
6. Integrate crafts and trade education into youth programming to build the next generation of preservation stewards.

Right:
2023 RepresentAsian
Matters Summer Program,
Denver

Objective C: Prioritize workforce development in order to meet the current and future needs of urgent preservation work

1. Create training opportunities (including certification programs and classes) and apprenticeships for existing trades in under-resourced communities by partnering with trade unions, schools and universities, and other professional partners.
2. Identify opportunities to create a continuing education credits program for trades and craftspeople or a path to certification in preservation trades in partnership with other trade organizations and state regulators.
3. Develop and maintain a database of qualified preservation contractors and organizations, with an emphasis on filling the gaps in rural communities.
4. Leverage the State Historical Fund to fund projects that train craftspeople in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
5. Partner with local employers and schools to offer apprenticeships, internships, and preservation trade opportunities, especially related to succession planning for legacy craftspeople.

Photo Credit: Asian Girls Ignite



Pictured:
Adobe Workshop,
Saguache, Colorado

Photo Credit:
Michael Pacheco

Section 4

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Yuma Depot,
Washington County



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