



COLORADO ENCYCLOPEDIA



THE COLORADO ENCYCLOPEDIA provides a vetted platform for Coloradans to tell our story, instead of leaving it to Wikipedia or the random results of a Google search. Qualified members of the public are invited to submit topic ideas, write articles, and provide feedback on existing entries. The prototype site is available now at coloradoencyclopedia.org. By the end of 2016, the *Encyclopedia* will deliver an informative cultural experience as diverse and colorful as the state it serves.

The site includes **articles on Colorado's diverse people and places—past and present—vetted by top Colorado scholars.** William Wei, professor of history at the University of Colorado-Boulder, serves as Editor-in-Chief for the *Encyclopedia*. Colorado Humanities also partners with other top scholars in the state, including Thomas J. Noel, professor of history at CU-Denver; Patricia N. Limerick, State Historian and director of the Center of the American West at CU-Boulder; Assistant State Archaeologist Kevin Black at History Colorado; and Jared Orsi, environmental historian at Colorado State University-Fort Collins. Under the supervision of those and other editors, graduate and undergraduate students are also contributing *Encyclopedia* articles. All articles are organized under categories of "People," "Places," "Events," and "Things."

Mobile platform features will connect visitors at archaeological and historic sites with articles about those sites. Clean, easy-to-navigate web pages accommodate basic and tech-savvy users. **Website design, creation, and hosting by CSU Libraries** allows for continual upgrading to meet evolving user needs, and CSU librarians are acquiring media files and permissions for high-quality photos, entertaining and educational videos, and thought-provoking multimedia exhibits.

Versions of **articles are offered for fourth- eighth- and tenth-grade reading levels**, and include downloadable annotated resource sets, in-classroom activities, and other resources for students and teachers. An Education Advisory Board led by Education Editor Cynthia Stout, a thirty-year teaching veteran in Jefferson County and co-author of *Teaching Social Studies Today*, will help align the *Encyclopedia's* educational resources with standards.

Lead partner **Colorado Humanities has forty-two years' experience developing programs, media, and educational resources statewide.** Colorado Humanities has contributed thousands of hours of consortium leadership and proposal development to the *Colorado Encyclopedia* and is dedicated to its continued development.

One goal of the *Colorado Encyclopedia* is to **aggregate and link to the state's rich collection of local histories, websites, and resources**, currently strewn across thousands of books and web pages.

The site offers an **unprecedented opportunity for worldwide exposure to small communities** and local voices, and invites them to join a broader conversation about Colorado. The *Encyclopedia* will **support tourism** with detailed information on the state's most popular resorts, historic sites, and attractions. Information on the site can draw tourists and their money into little-known localities, providing them with a unique experience that may encourage them to see what other previously hidden wonders Colorado has to offer.

For more information please contact Nick Johnson at njohnson@coloradohumanities.org or 303.894.7951 x21.

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