



## The Enchanting Power of Storytelling

Colorado Humanities <[info@coloradohumanities.org](mailto:info@coloradohumanities.org)>

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# Colorado Humanities Newsletter

December 6, 2023

“The humanities matter because a world without books and without poetry and without museums isn’t a world at all. The humanities are our stories: They give meaning to our lives. It’s our job to lift up the storytellers. To say the world is complex but here is where we stand, here is where we find beauty, every day.” – NEH Chair Shelly C. Lowe (Navajo)

Holidays are times when families and friends gather to share stories about past gatherings, about individuals with us and departed, and about events in the past year. In my family, both of my parents were great storytellers. From them, I learned how one great grandmother provided for her family by

selling her baked goods and how another great grandmother saved my father's life when he was a baby. I learned that music and community leadership were central to one side of my family, and church, farming, and making things were central to the other. I learned which heirloom objects and recipes were valued and why. Hearing and sharing these stories has brought me joy, and has helped me appreciate, and seek others' stories.

Please join us as we explore each others' stories in the coming year.

—Maggie Coval, Executive Director



To everyone who gave to  
Colorado Humanities on  
Colorado Gives Day...

**Thank you!**



### **Museum on Main Street's "Crossroads: Change in Rural America" Moves to Trinidad**

In partnership with Colorado Humanities and the Smithsonian Institution, Corazón de Trinidad Creative District is hosting the world-class exhibit "Crossroads: Change in Rural America," from December 4 through January 13. The exhibit delves into the history and culture of rural America, sparking conversations about its future and sustainability, and invites visitors to ponder the impact and lasting consequences of rural Americans becoming a minority of the nation's population. The grand opening will be a day-long celebration on December 9 at Trinidad's Space to Create from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and there will be numerous fascinating and engaging events throughout the

duration of the exhibit. Visit [Museum on Main Street](#) for a schedule of events.



### ***The Five States of Colorado* Upcoming Screenings**

Free screenings of *The Five States of Colorado* continue with the next three taking place in Trinidad at H.R. Sayre Senior Center on December 15, Durango at The Powerhouse on January 11, and Ridgway at The Sherbino on January 25. Following each screening, Colorado Humanities offers either a Q&A session with an expert from the film or a community conversation with a trained facilitator to encourage dialogue and reflection on the diverse cultural and geographical tapestry of Colorado. These events offer a unique opportunity for attendees to gain insights, engage in meaningful discussions, and foster a sense of community. Join us at these screenings and conversations as we collectively explore the rich and vibrant heritage of our beloved state. There will be more screenings in the months to come, so [visit our website](#) for more information.



### **2024 Colorado Book Awards Submissions Close Soon**

Submissions for the 33rd annual Colorado Book Awards close January 5, 2024 for books published for the first time between October 1, 2022 and December 31, 2023. We are particularly interested in receiving and reviewing works created by authors of communities that have been historically marginalized and underrepresented. This award not only recognizes the outstanding literary achievements of Colorado-based authors, but also serves as a platform to showcase the diverse and vibrant literary

landscape of the region. For more information and to enter a book, visit the [Colorado Book Awards webpage](#).

### **Black History Live**

In February 2024, our Black History Live program will tour across the state featuring Becky Stone portraying Rosa Parks and Marvin Jefferson portraying Martin Luther King, Jr. Locations will include Pueblo, Fort Collins, Denver, Cañon City, Grand Junction, Greeley, and more. If you're interested in hosting a program please reach out to [Jennifer Macias](#) at 303.894.7951 x17.



### **Colorado Humanities at the National Humanities Conference**

In October, Colorado Humanities joined the national humanities community at the National Humanities Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. The annual conference is organized by the Federation of State Humanities Councils and the National Humanities Alliance. In keeping with the state motto of Indiana, “The Crossroads of America,” the 2023 conference theme was “Crossroads.” Throughout the conference sessions, participants were invited to consider how the public humanities have arrived at their current place, what that place looks like to us today, and where we wish to go from here. The conference planners noted that crossroads are places of

choice and possibility—creative, reflective, and forward-looking. CH staff and board attendees learned about new and different public program formats and explored topics such as digital humanities collaborations, humanities and agriculture, ethics in the boardroom and classroom, data and evaluation models and many more. Staff members LaNaya Butler and Jennifer Macias were selected as grant recipients of National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Equitable Access Program, enabling them to attend the conference and participate in a special session with NEH Chair Shelley Lowe (pictured) to discuss the future of the humanities.

## More News

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### **Mexican Posada Celebration**

Posadas are a Mexican Christmas tradition which originated to commemorate the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph's search for a place to stay where Jesus could be born. Today, any party held around Christmas is called a posada and features hot food and drinks, sweets, music, and piñatas. On December 15 at 3 p.m., Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales Library in Denver will host their own posada open to the public with [crafts, sweet treats, and more](#).

### **NEA Big Read in Denver, hosted by The Word: A Storytelling Sanctuary**

Join the city-wide celebration of Natalie Diaz's stunning work about love, loss, indigeneity, land, inheritance, basketball, family, beauty, and movement: *Postcolonial Love Poem*. Attend a

### **Apply for NEA Big Read**

Applications are open for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read, a program that awards grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000 to organizations. These grants support community reading programs designed around a single NEA Big Read book. The goal of this program is to inspire meaningful conversations, celebrate local creativity, elevate a wide variety of voices and perspectives, and build stronger connections in each community. Initial applications are due January 10, 2024 and more information is available at [NEA](#) or on the Arts Midwest website.

### **Shakespeare in American Communities**

Arts Midwest is also accepting applications for the Shakespeare in

performance, reading, film screening or other event during the NEA Big Read in Denver. Information about upcoming events is available on [The Word](#).

### Colorado Cowboy Gathering

The Colorado Cowboy Gathering celebrates cowboy heritage, traditions, and entertainment. The origins of this event grew out of the traditions of workers on cattle drives and ranches. After a long day in the saddle, cowboys would gather around a campfire and entertain one another with tall tales and folk songs. The gathering will take place on January 12 to 14 at the Buffalo Rose Event Center in Golden and will include two evening performances, two full-days of popular theme sessions, and a Sunday matinee. [Tickets are on sale now](#).

American Communities grant, which provides funding of up to \$25,000 to connect young people across the country to Shakespeare's plays. This program supports high-quality productions and educational activities in middle schools, high schools, and juvenile justice facilities throughout the United States. Submit your Intent to Apply by Thursday, January 25th on [Arts Midwest](#).

Thank you





Sent to: [betsy@coloradohumanities.org](mailto:betsy@coloradohumanities.org)

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