



The start of the new year brings with it a fresh set of opportunities for new experiences. New books to read, programs to attend, people to meet, and conversations to engage in with family, friends, and our communities. This year, especially, I encourage everyone to take a moment to think about how important the humanities are for everyone. As such, I invite you to attend our first big history program of the year, Black History Live. With presentations across the state, this is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about two significant Black historical figures in American history.

From February 1 to February 8, Becky Stone will share Harriet Tubman's story, a woman who upheld the conservative values of her time—faith, temperance, and love of country—while fiercely opposing slavery, women's disenfranchisement, and injustice. From February 23 to March 1, Marvin Jefferson will tell the story of Louis Armstrong. While best known for his musical genius, Armstrong fought for civil rights and left behind a legacy that spanned the globe.

Both of these historical figures remind us of the importance of highlighting the histories of those who are often overlooked and how learning these stories and histories can inspire us to think critically and better understand the value of our many different human experiences.

I hope to see you at one of the stops on the tour!

Jennifer Macias

Colorado Humanities History Programs Coordinator

Black History Live

Now in its 16th year, Colorado Humanities' Black History Live tour is an annual recognition each February of the significant contributions African Americans have made and continue to make to art, culture, economic development, education, human rights, medicine, public services, politics, and sports. The 2025 statewide tour will feature the living-history portrayals of Harriet Tubman by nationally acclaimed scholar/actor Becky Stone, and Louis Armstrong by scholar/actor Marvin Jefferson.

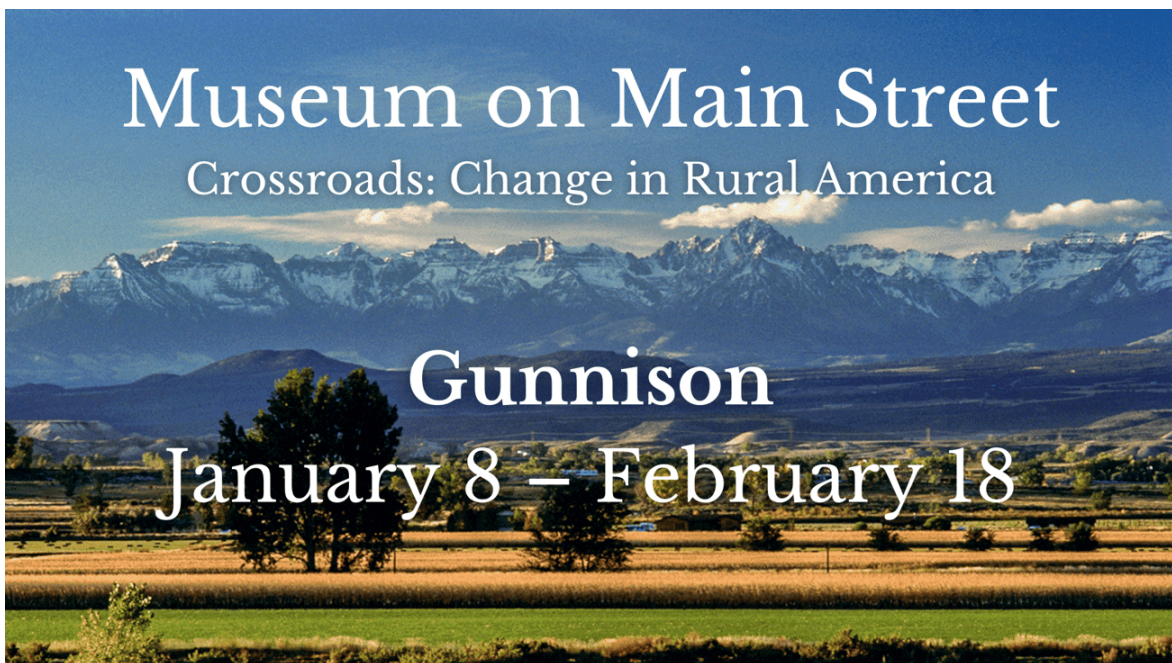
The portrayals will be performed in a Chautauqua format, which is a first-person dramatization of a historical figure. The speaker's monologue typically lasts 40 minutes, followed by 20 minutes of Q&A, first in character and then out of character as the scholar/performer.

The full schedule can be found [on our website](#).



Julie Bell Author Talk in Alamosa

Meet 2024 Colorado Book Awards History winner Julie Bell, author of the *Colorado History* mystery series, on January 11 at 1 p.m. at Alamosa Library. Bell will discuss her award-winning history book *Women of the Colorado Gold Rush Era*. Explore the lives of 10 unforgettable women who called Colorado home during the turbulent years of the Pikes Peak Gold Rush, including Maria Dolores Ballejos, a woman pioneer from the San Luis Valley. More information can be found online at [Alamosa Library](#).



Museum on Main Street in Gunnison

Join us in Gunnison on January 8 at the [Gunnison Arts Center](#) for the opening of *Crossroads: Change in Rural America*. This traveling Smithsonian exhibit takes a broad look at the characteristics of rural America, how an attraction to and interaction with the

land formed the basis of rural America, and how these communities and small towns have evolved. This is the last stop on the Crossroads tour, so be sure to stop by.

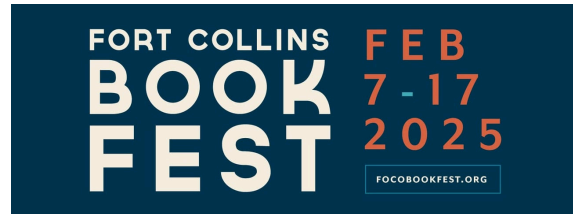
Other News

When a King Came to Town: Film Screening and Discussion

Join History Colorado on January 16 at 6:30 p.m. for a free screening and Q&A discussion of the film *When a King Came to Town*. This documentary follows Dr. Martin Luther King's visit to Denver and Littleton during the height of the Civil Rights Movement in 1964, his return in 1967 after his vocal opposition to the Vietnam War, and the local reaction to his assassination in April 1968. RSVP [online](#).

The Local Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

You can also learn about Dr. King's visits to the Denver area at the Aurora History Museum on Saturday, January 11 at 4 p.m. and engage with a panel of historians, scholars, and Aurora community members as part of the city's [Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration](#). Register for free on [Eventbrite](#).



9th Annual Fort Collins Book Fest

Mark your calendars for the 9th Annual [Fort Collins Book Fest](#), starting on February 7 and running until the 17th. This year's headlining authors include Deborah Taffa and Christine Day. Taffa is a citizen of the Kwatsaan Nation and Laguna Pueblo. Her debut work, *Whiskey Tender*, is a 2024 National Book Award finalist. Day is a citizen of the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe. Her first novel, *I Can Make This Promise*, was chosen for NPR's Books We Love, a Charlotte Huck Award Honor Book, and an American Indian Youth Literature Award Honor Book in 2020.

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