



Welcoming Spring: Stories, Events & Community Connections This March!

Colorado Humanities <info@coloradohumanities.org>

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Thank you to CH staff member Anna Savage Duncan for providing this photo.

Colorado Humanities Newsletter

March 7, 2025

Dear friends of the humanities,

I hope this finds you well and looking forward to the first signs of spring! I personally love a good spring ski day with warmer temperatures and softer snow, and of course a little more daylight on the drive home.

As Director of Programs, I have the privilege of regularly working with our talented program staff who conduct programs in community conversations, family literacy, history, and literary arts throughout Colorado. Our work isn't possible without the ongoing support and collaboration of our wonderful program partners who help us understand the priorities and interests of their communities as we work together to develop and implement relevant and engaging humanities programs.

Here at Colorado Humanities, we talk a lot with each other about the impact of our work and feel grateful to be working in the public humanities. I am proud to share with you here a brief snapshot of our fiscal year 2024 programs and their impacts by the numbers:

In collaboration with 104 program partners, such as public libraries, schools, and community organizations, we conducted 274 programs and activities to reach 28,115 participants and audience members. From the Colorado Book Awards and family literacy programs to facilitator trainings and living history events, our programs and activities spanned a wide range of humanities topics and community interests. Our programs were conducted in 100% of Colorado's eight Congressional districts, and our publicity through print media, online news, and social media reached over 300,000 people.

In 2024, we also engaged the public in our five-year strategic plan and self-assessment work through the distribution of 6,000 surveys statewide and 20 conversations with groups throughout our state to learn what Colorado communities value in public humanities programming.

On behalf of all the staff at Colorado Humanities, I'd like to thank you for your support, friendship, and dedication to the humanities. We hope to see you at one of our programs in 2025.

Mary Hickey

Director of Programs & Center for the Book

Colorado Humanities' board and staff are committed to the public humanities in our state. We will continue to collaborate with our many program partners statewide to provide our communities with stellar humanities programs.

We are especially grateful to our donors, the visionaries whose generosity protects community-based humanities in Colorado. You make it happen. Thank you for the vital support that has kept us going through thick and thin for 50 years, and that will continue to keep our work a vibrant part of Colorado life in years to come.

Renew your commitment today to the public humanities in Colorado.



Meet Author Julie Bell

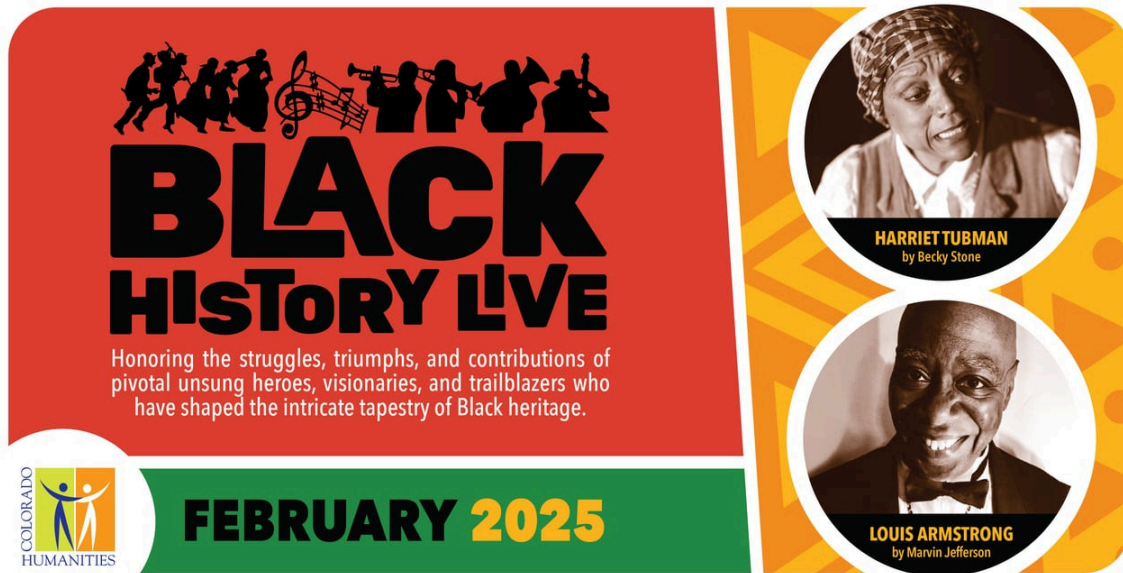
Meet Colorado Book Award winner J.v.L.Bell, author of the *Colorado History* mystery series, on March 8 at the [Alamosa Public Library](#) from 1 to 2 p.m., where she will talk about her book *Women of the Colorado Gold Rush Era*, which won the 2024 Colorado Book Award in History. The book tells of the lives of 10 women who lived through the Pikes Peak Gold Rush, including Maria Dolores Ballejos, a woman pioneer from the San Luis Valley.



History Speakers Bureau Presentations

Join us for upcoming presentations taking place around the Denver area in March. Susan Marie Frontczak will portray former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and American humorist Erma Bombeck in presentations for Women's History Month. Meet Eleanor

Roosevelt on March 6 at 6 p.m. at Pueblo City-County Library and Erma Bombeck on March 10 at Lone Tree Aging at 12:15 p.m. and Cañon City's Steeple Event Center on March 29 at 2 p.m. Elsa Wolff will portray Amelia Earhart on March 12 at the Front Range Campus Community Center at 12:30 p.m. Angel Vigil will portray El Vaquero in Cherry Hills Village on March 11 at 10:30 a.m. at Bethany Lutheran Church.



A Recap of Black History Live

Thank you so much to all of the communities across Colorado that welcomed either Harriet Tubman or Louis Armstrong into your town. This was our biggest tour in recent years, spanning 11 cities, six performances at different Colorado schools with over 400 students, and 16 public events across the Front Range and Western Slope. We met so many new audience members who had never seen a Chautauqua performance before. The fascinating living history method of presenting the stories of Armstrong and Tubman is a particularly compelling way to learn about and honor the important contributions each made to American history. With questions like "Did Louis Armstrong really travel to Africa?" and "How many people did Harriet Tubman help along the Underground Railroad?" audiences across Colorado felt their stories come to life. If you're interested in hosting one of these performances next year, please contact History Programs Coordinator, [Jennifer Macias](#).

We are also honored that Black History Live has received so much media coverage. Visit our [website](#) to read articles from 9News, AuroraTV, Colorado Public Radio, and Raven Sanchez's 38th State Spotlights.

Poet Laureate Documentary Premiered at Sundance

Come See Me In the Good Light, a documentary about the life of Colorado Poet Laureate Andrea Gibson, was celebrated at **Sundance** and a sold-out screening at the Boulder International Film Festival will take place this month. The film tells the story of Andrea and their partner Megan Falley's journey through love, life, and mortality. When Andrea was diagnosed with cancer, everything changed and the two poets discovered that life is best lived between the big moments of victory and despair, where the small moments come alive to be cherished.



Seating is limited and reservations are required. To reserve your space and purchase a ticket scan the code or go to bit.ly/high-tea-hpc

Cost \$30/person or Sponsor a table for \$300

You are cordially invited to
HIGH TEA
with
Legendary Ladies
Georgia O'keefe, Hedy LaMarr
& Merle Eagan Anderson

Music provided by
Ursa String Duet

March 29, 2025

2:00 - 4:00 PM Celebration Center
Cornerstone Community Church
1321 9th Avenue, Greeley, CO

Other News

Read Across America

The National Endowment for the Arts is celebrating Read Across America March 3 to 7 by bringing music and story together with a special partnership and program. In front of a live audience, poet and author Kwame Alexander will read aloud the entirety of his award-winning title *The Crossover* with accompaniment by jazz bassist Amy Shook. One of each of the five videos of this engaging fusion of literature and music will be released each day throughout the first week of March on NEA's **YouTube**. The videos give students

Thrills and Chills Fest at Lighthouse

On March 15, **Lighthouse Writers Workshop** will host a two-day celebration of all things thriller, suspense, mystery, and crime, featuring David Heska Wanbli Weiden, Tiffany Quay Tyson, Kristin Koval, Christa Faust, Benjamin Whitmer, and more. Seminars, panels, and workshops will allow attendees to practice plotting and ratcheting up suspense; consult with experts in the realm of genre publishing; and network with Denver's thriller, crime, and suspense community.

This is Native Art Opening Reception

across the country an opportunity to experience the rhythm and the beat of the story of twin brothers navigating love, loyalty, and family on and off the basketball court.

Castle Rock Local Author Showcase

On March 15, **Douglas County Libraries** is hosting a showcase of local authors to talk about their books from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at their Castle Rock branch. Each author will spend five minutes discussing their works, followed by a book sale and signing. This event is free to attend.

Golden History Museum will hold a free opening reception on March 19 for their new exhibit, *This is Native Art* from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The exhibit brings together more than 35 practicing Native American artists from across the United States, each exploring various aesthetics and compositions while challenging the narrative of what Native American art is and what it is expected to be. Their powerful expressions demonstrate diversity while weaving a shared view of Indigenous knowledge. As contemporary Native American art gains an increase of visibility across the country, this exhibition charts a glimpse into the often-untold stories of Native America and the significance of affirming Native modernism.

Thank you to our sponsors



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