

# HISTORIC DENVER NEWS

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## QUEER SPACES IN DENVER 1870 – 1980

Gay Pride March, 1981. Courtesy History Colorado

David Duffield, Guest Contributor

The stories of LGBTQ places and people have proliferated in the past forty years due to the efforts of community members, community organizations, and local historians. The work of Terry Mangan and Stan Olinger in particular, as well as recent collaborations between the Colorado LGBTQ History project and History Colorado, have helped to uncover a history that was purposely hidden, and uses the built environment to inform our comprehension of Denver’s queer community, its mores, rules, and values, as well as the struggles and triumphs within the community.

Denver queer spaces were noted as early as Oscar Wilde’s 1882 visit to the Queen City of the Plains, the earliest accounts were at places like Soapy Smith’s Palace Theater, Moses Home, or Capitol Gardens on Larimer Street, which featured “female impersonators.” These were spaces of gender illusion. Yet, early “dirt and sod bars” were highly masculine spaces. Denver had seven men to every woman until the late 19th century. Such gender imbalance, with large numbers of same-sex gaming, entertainment, drinking, and sexuality, is called homosociality. Gender illusion and homosocial culture often signified queer space.

Newspapers accounts describe men engaged in sex work while cross-dressing, a noted practice for homosexual prostitutes in America. In 1886 Edward Sandoval was arrested for “mashing the hearts of men” up and down Market Street. An 1894 letter to sexologist Magnus Hirschfield from an anonymous Denver professor mentioned queer spaces in “our small city” in the hotels and speculated on bars like Capitol Gardens doubling as brothels. Historian Terry Mangan, and later graduate student Edward Scott, narrowed down the location of Capitol Gardens to near 24th and Larimer.

The fact that Capitol Gardens was hidden and later forgotten reflects that queer communities were hidden beneath the surface and are in need of rediscovery.

Julian Eltinge, a famed female impersonator, entertained from 1905 - 1926 in Denver’s theater district near 16th and Curtis, ending his career at the Empress Theater, at 1615 Curtis St. According to George Painter in *Sensibilities of Our Forefathers*, a series of sodomy cases prosecuted in the 1920s in which gay men dated, met, or courted each other in the penny arcades, theaters, and speakeasies shows a long established, working class, queer culture. These were protected spaces of entertainment and privilege bound in open-secrets inherent in the live and let live Western spirit.

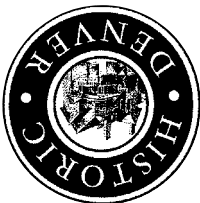
Another thread in the queer story takes places outside these entertainment venues, in private homes and offices. Mary Sperry and Gail Laughlin came to Denver after the San Francisco fire in 1906 and were prominent suffragists. According to historian Wendy Rouse, the couple’s relationship was an open secret. One was a doctor and the other a lawyer, and they kept their offices together at the Kittredge Building, at 511 16th Street (16th & Glenarm). Sperry died of Spanish Flu in 1919, and her ashes are buried with those of Laughlin in Maine.

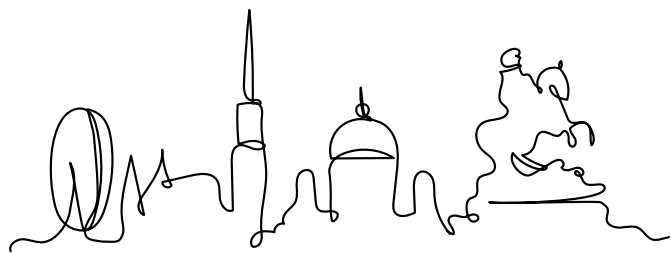
By WWII growing national concern over homosexuality caused many queer communities to move into private spaces creating the first “gay bars.” According to Mangan the first gay bar in Denver was the “Snake Pit”, recently discovered to have been in the basement of The Steak Bar at 17th and Glenarm Place. Oral histories conducted by Katie Gilmartin note that the Pit was a dingy, small bar with an entrance to the back of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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## Current Issues

### A Letter From Our Executive Director

On April 28-30 we'll welcome preservationists from across the country for Congreso — the fourth-ever convening of the national non-profit, Latinos in Heritage Conservation. Latinos in Heritage Conservation was founded in 2014 by inter-generational leaders from across the country — all engaged in the work of advocacy, education, and leadership to advance the preservation of Latino heritage and communities. As a close partner and co-host Historic Denver has played a significant role in planning the meeting, and it provides a terrific opportunity to showcase the important work that has been taking place in our city to document, amplify, recognize, and protect the heritage — both tangible and intangible — of our city's Latino/a and Chicano/a community. This will include sharing the innovative strategies and deep community engagement that led to the designation of the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District last summer, the work of the Chicano Murals Project of Colorado- which has the support of our Action Fund, and the City's publication of Nuestra Historias, a Mexican American/Latino/Chicano context study that has identified over 100 places and spaces in our neighborhoods that tell these important stories.

While we're proud to share our local efforts, we can't wait to be inspired by the work of leaders from around the country who are researching, collecting stories, applying new tools and pushing the boundaries of preservation so that communities across the country can promote and preserve places that matter- places that reflect the depth and diversity of American history.

Hosting Congreso is important to Historic Denver because we believe everyone should see their story reflected in our local and national landmarks and preserved spaces. Whether that connection is made through the story or site of an ancestor, of an inspirational figure, of a commonly tread path, of dynamic architecture, or of shared achievement or hardship, recognizing and preserving diverse places creates social connections, ignites community action, sustains culture, and fosters strong and authentic neighborhoods where people can thrive.

In the weeks leading to Congreso, we opened the Heroine of the Titanic exhibit at the Molly Brown House Museum- and you may think you know the Titanic story- of the ship, the survivors, the sinking of the unsinkable. But through the lens of a diverse array of passengers, including Florentina Duran y Mone, Latifah Baclini, and Fang Lang, you'll find there is more to the story. Engaging with new research, including under-told stories, challenges us to think critically about the past, and requires grappling with perspectives that might change how we see it.

This can be true of all heritage conservation work- and we invite you to join us on the journey by attending Congreso April 28-30, and visiting the Molly Brown House this summer.

Anne Levinovsky



**CORRECTION**  
This photo was incorrectly credited in the Winter 2022 edition. The photograph was taken by Tom McClure.

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Unless otherwise noted, all photographs were taken by Jay Homstad.





QUEER SPACES IN DENVER 1870 - 1980

restaurant. Lesbians, like gay men, sometimes chose to get private rooms at places like the Albany and Brown Palace Hotels and meet people in bars like the Ship Tavern.

Jiro Onuma was a gay Issei Japanese from San Francisco who was interned at the Topaz Concentration Camp in Utah, and worked in Denver from 1946 - 1948. He worked at the Navarre Café, located in the historic Navarre Building across the street from the Brown Palace and the Ship Tavern, which was also within walking distance from African American clubs in Five Points, and Bohemian hang-outs in Sherman street hotels like the Colburn. His work and social connections point to places in Denver where the LGBTQ community gathered.

While many early queer spaces were located downtown, Capitol Hill became the center of the queer community by WWII. The large single flats along Grant and Sherman Streets, from the State Capitol south to 6th Avenue, such as the Poet's Row section were long known as "Bachelor's Row" in the queer community. The large mansions of Capitol Hill were sold and turned into multi-unit apartments by the Great Depression in the 1930s, providing additional housing options and safe queer spaces. Historians George Chauncey, Estelle Freedman, and John D'Emilio note that such apartments provided a sense of privacy, intimacy, and therefore community in major American cities by 1920. The concentration and growth of apartments reflect opportunities and constraints for queer people.

By the 1950s new gay and lesbian organizations, most notably the Mattachine Society and Daughters of Bilitis, had chapters around the country. Historian Nick Ota-Wang mapped the apartments of the Denver Area Mattachine Society (DAMS) from 1954 - 1960 for History Colorado, and found them across the city.

In 1959 the DAMS held their convention at the Albany Hotel on 17th and Broadway. Many members used their real names when attending the conference, and were run out of town by the Denver Police, despite the fact that there was a growing set of gay and mixed-use bars at 17th and Broadway.

By 1960, Denver was considered a very closeted space. Drag was effectively outlawed in 1954, but a group of activist drag queens created a show called the *Turn About Review* in Evergreen in 1965. With the help of Dick Reese, whose family was well connected, the group opened a small drag club called the Gilded Cage in 1965 around the corner from the Cherry Creek Tavern on 13th and Lawrence in the Auraria neighborhood. The Cherry Creek Tavern also had drag and brunch even though drag was strictly policed outside private spaces. The 1965 Cherry Creek flood likely wiped out both spaces, though the number of gay bars was slowly growing, with 14 by 1970 as cheaper rents and leases became available in a downtown endangered by suburbanization.

The *Turn About Review* also provided space for gender non-conforming people, many of whom later identified as transgender women. In a 1990 essay for the Gender Identity Center's (GIC) fundraiser, Barbara Cook noted the special nature of the Gilded Cage as a space transgender people could be themselves, even though most dressed in the privacy of their own homes. In 1980 they established the GIC which was housed for over a decade at 3715 West 32nd Avenue. The roots of the transgender community were deeply connected to

While many early queer spaces were located downtown, Capitol Hill became the center of the queer community by WWII. The large single flats along Grant and Sherman Streets, from the State Capitol south to 6th Avenue, such as the Poet's Row section were long known as "Bachelor's Row" in the queer community.

the GIC House.

By 1975 the Denver LGBTQ community was out of the closet. The Gay Coalition of Denver (GCD) formed in 1972 as a reaction to the Stonewall riots. The Stonewall Riots or Stonewall Uprising took place on June 28, 1969, when New York City Police raided the Stonewall Inn, sparking a six day riot which served as the catalyst for the gay rights movement. In 1973, the Denver Police arrested over 300 gay men for solicitation of sex, which was decriminalized in 1971, using a bus known as the Johnny Cash Special to entrap them. The GCD rallied the community in the first successful political action to overturn anti-gay laws, met with city council, and briefly got the DPD to stop arresting LGBTQ people. The GDC's first headquarters were located at 1454 or 1460 Pennsylvania Street (pictured below). By 1977 the GCD helped form the Gay Community Center of Colorado (GCCC), with offices in a house owned by the First Unitarian Society of Denver (FUSD) at 1436 Lafayette Street. The Big Mama Rag (BMR) a local lesbian feminist magazine, was published in the basement of a house near 16th and York. The landscape of LGBTQ institutions in Capitol Hill from 1950 - 1980 shows a queer society segmented by intense public fear bolstered by government oppression. Yet those same spaces sowed the seeds of liberation, negotiated peace, and grassroots activism seen in the DAMS, Gilded Cage, GCD, GCCC, GIC, and BMR. Additionally, the privacy provided by the apartments across the neighborhood fostered this proliferation of liberation groups.

While privacy and community thread their way through Denver's queer spaces from 1870 to 1980, so too is an enduring love passed from generation to generation. Each space shares the

story of the LGBTQ history, which like the Capitol Gardens, risks being forgotten and lost to time. The preservation of queer spaces ensures the endurance and legacy of queer history and community. Preserving queer spaces saves queer stories and lives. 🌸

Our guest contributor for this article, David Duffield is the co-founder and coordinator of the Colorado LGBTQ History Project for the Center on Colfax, formerly the LGBTQ Center of Colorado which focuses on oral histories, document archiving, education, and networking. The Center's work includes exhibits, walking tours, lesson plans, over 100 oral histories, over 30 donated collections to Denver Public Library, and dozens of presentations and widespread collaboration with scholars and institutions. (for more information see [lgbtqcolorado.org](http://lgbtqcolorado.org) or contact: [history@lgbtqcolorado.org](mailto:history@lgbtqcolorado.org))

Photo courtesy of Center on Colfax Colorado LGBTQ History Project

Below: 1450-1460 Pennsylvania St.

PRIVATE SPACES:  
QUEER CAPITOL  
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Saturday June 4 • 1-3 pm  
\$25/person

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Queer Capitol Hill looks at the history of LGBTQ spaces in what became known as the heart of LGBTQ Denver. The tour will take guests through Bachelor's Row and look at how single apartments offered privacy for a closeted community. The tour will look at how public spaces were a refuge and places to connect for LGBTQ people. We will look at how laws such as anti-crossdressing and R-O zoning kept queer Denver heavily policed and segregated. Finally, we will look at places of liberation like the first head quarters of the Gay Coalition of Denver, apartments for Denver Area Mattachine Society, and the first headquarters for the Gay Community Center of Colorado. From within the spaces of Capitol Hill came the hearts and activism of generations of queer people. A legacy born of streets, parks, and private spaces.

Tickets available at  
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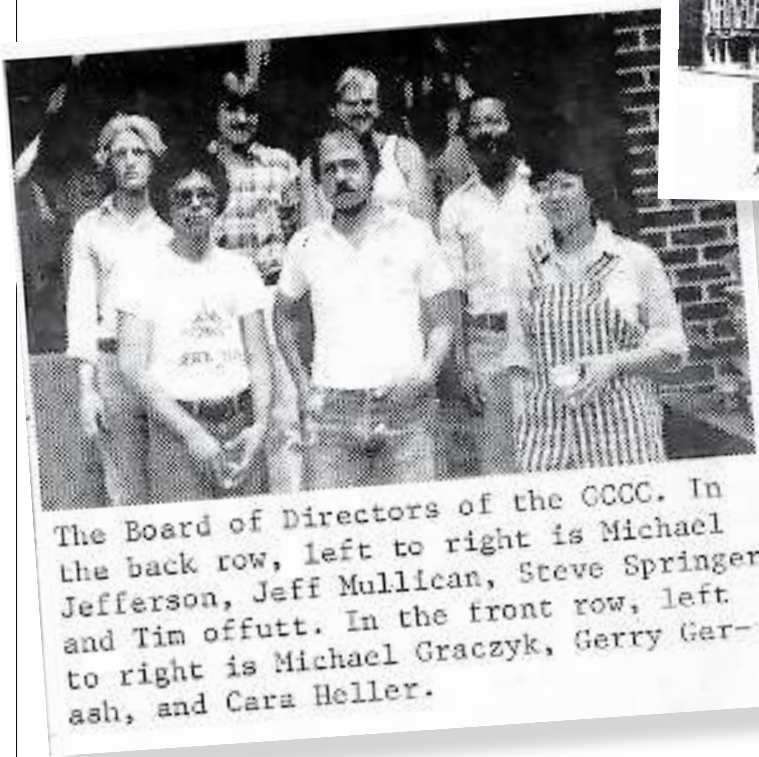
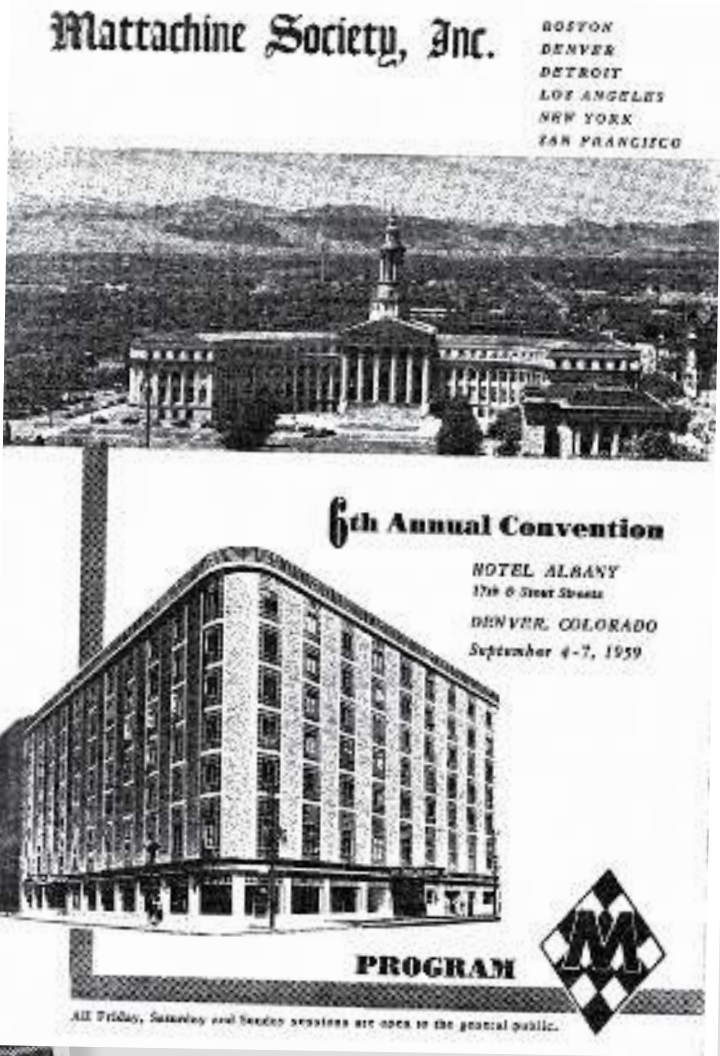


Photo courtesy of Center on Colfax Colorado LGBTQ History Project







The Grove at Commons Park

# 50 actions 50 UPDATES for places

Michael Flowers, Director of Preservation Action

In 2021 Denverites nominated dozens of sites for Historic Denver’s 50 Actions for 50 Places Campaign, designed to identify the places our communities cannot imagine Denver without, especially those that have been under-recognized in the past and those that reflect the full depth and diversity in our city’s story. After the submission period, the list was narrowed to fifty sites for which we’ve been actively working with community members and property owners to develop preservation actions of all kinds, from research projects, to interpretive plans, to publicity efforts, to local and National Register designation applications. As actions get underway or are completed we’ll report the news in these pages and on our social media accounts.

## THE GROVE, COLORADO AIDS MEMORIAL

There is a little-known section of Commons Park near the 15th St. Viaduct dedicated as The Grove, Colorado AIDS Memorial. It was designed to be a site of reflection and to honor all of those that have been affected by HIV/AIDS. The memorial was inspired by San Francisco’s Grove, the National AIDS Memorial, and the vision of Doug McNeil, a staunch supporter of Denver arts and a local realtor.

McNeil visited San Francisco’s National AIDS Memorial Grove and thought that Denver should have a similar space for reflection on the many lives lost to the disease. Sadly, Doug’s vision was not realized in his lifetime. He lost his own battle with HIV/AIDS in 1993, but his friends made his dream a reality. Seven years after McNeil’s death, The Grove Project, a 501c3 non-profit organization, was created. The Grove, Colorado AIDS Memorial was dedicated in 2000. At that point, Colorado had counted 8,211 diagnosed cases of HIV/AIDS and 4,394 deaths.

The Grove is a natural space meant to be an escape from the busy city. A place where one can contemplate and reflect. Surrounded by cottonwood trees, the space is largely untouched and natural, with the exception of a sign denoting the memorial and several large rocks with inscriptions recognizing the site. The site was nominated to the 50 Actions for 50 Places campaign this year and chosen for the important story it represents- a story that its nominators hope will be long remembered. It is not just locally significant, but one of only a few memorials dedicated to the victims of HIV/AIDS worldwide. As our action we will be working with members of the community to help raise awareness for the space and tell its story.



The Robinson House

## THE ROBINSON HOUSE

Even as it was threatened with demolition in Spring 2021, community members rallied around the Robinson House, nominating it for the 50 Actions for 50 Places campaign. Situated on a large corner lot at Albion and 35th Avenue, the house is well-known to many Denverites as the former site of Kate’s Restaurant. After a brief stint as a restaurant called The Garden, the house sat vacant. After listing the house for sale, prospective buyers briefly pursued demolition eligibility. Fortunately, Historic Denver was able to connect preservation-minded developer Steve Davis with the sellers. Davis ultimately purchased the building, saving it from potential demolition. With our support, Davis has submitted a rezoning application and a local landmark designation application for the house, which will be considered by City Council on April 18.

The Queen Anne house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003 for its architecture, but its history tells the story of Denver and the early development of Park Hill. In the 1880s Denver was experiencing rapid economic growth largely due to the silver industry. Along with that growth came a building boom and a new concept of building on speculation. John Cook Jr. platted this area, originally called “J. Cook Jr’s North Division of Capitol Hill.” The Robinson House was the first he built in 1889 to attract investors and others to buy the land. Only a handful of houses would be built before the 1893 Silver Crash put an end to the building boom. This left the Robinson House nearly alone on the edge of the city, surrounded by brickyards and dairies. The Roe Family, who owned it from 1913 to 1953, even farmed the surrounding land. For years a horse drawn streetcar serviced the residents and the handful of other homes that had been constructed in the immediate area. This section of Park Hill would not be developed in earnest until the Post-War Era, and the Robinson House stands out as one of the few pre-Silver Crash, Queen Anne style homes in the greater Park Hill neighborhood.





Irving P. Andrews, poses on the left of Martin Luther King Jr. Photo courtesy of the Andrews Family

IRVING P. ANDREWS HOUSE

The Irving Piper Andrews House was nominated to 50 Actions for 50 Places by Liz Andrews to honor her father’s legacy. Irving P. Andrews was a prolific lawyer with a remarkable career linked with the fight for social justice and civil rights. He was born in Denver in 1925 but grew up in Pueblo. After serving in the Navy during World War II, Andrews went on to study law.

Andrews excelled at his studies and graduated from the University of Denver Law School in 1950. He received the highest mark on the Colorado Bar Exam in 1951 but, as an African American, he struggled to secure employment due to discrimination. Andrews worked as a janitor at the YMCA’s Glenarm Branch as he built his own practice. He earned a spot on the legal team for the landmark 1954 Brown v Board of Education case, which addressed segregation in schools. Andrews was also a champion of the people. It was not unusual for his firm to take on cases for defendants that could not afford a lawyer. Andrews established the first integrated law office in Colorado with Judge John Kane. A staunch supporter of Civil Rights, Andrews was involved as the State President, Regional Chairman and Director of the National Board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He also participated in the 1963 March on Washington, D.C. for Civil Rights.

Andrews moved into his eclectic/craftsman style duplex on York St. in 1972. The downstairs served as his primary residence and the upstairs as his law offices from 1972 until his death in 1998. Our 50 Actions for 50 Places funds will provide the financial support and technical assistance to prepare a local landmark designation application for the house, which will honor Irving P. Andrews’ legacy as a champion for social justice and part of the fabric of northeast Denver. 🌿



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Walking tours are a wonderful way to explore the city. Taking the time to walk past each building allows for greater appreciation for the building itself, and our knowledgeable guides share so many wonderful stories about previous tenants, owners and community members that it makes the built environment come to life, by highlighting the past and the present of the buildings that make up our neighborhoods. Public tours are offered daily, and private tours can be arranged. Add exploring a neighborhood through of one of our walking tours to your summer bucket list!

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# MOLLY BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM



Titanic Museum Attractions, Branson, MO

## A CURATOR’S TRIP FOR TITANIC ARTIFACTS

Stephanie McGuire, Curator of Collections



Margaret Brown’s Ushabti

It all started with the only object of Margaret Brown’s that survived the *Titanic* sinking: a small Egyptian funerary talisman called an ushabti. She purchased it with a few other souvenirs in Egypt before she boarded the ill-fated ship, and this ushabti stayed with her through the whole harrowing experience aboard *Titanic*, right in her pocket. She later gave it to Captain Arthur Rostron of the rescue ship, *Carpathia*, as a token of her gratitude for their work caring for *Titanic*’s survivors.

The ushabti stayed in the Rostron family until the 1990s, when the family sold it at auction to Stanley and Laurel Lehrer, owners of one of the largest private collections of *Titanic* artifacts. It has since been on and off display at the Titanic Museum Attractions in Branson, Missouri and Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. For our newest exhibit, *Heroine of the Titanic*, we wanted to exhibit this tiny object at the home of its owner for the very first time.

Mary Kellogg, owner of Titanic Museum Attractions, and Vice President and Curator, Paul Burns, very graciously agreed to coordinate a loan of the ushabti to the Molly Brown House Museum along with many other rare *Titanic* artifacts for the extent of our exhibit, April 1 – September 25, 2022.

Paul worked day and night on the loans and when the time came to transfer the items, we knew we needed a safe way to get them from Missouri to Colorado. For special objects like these, we did not want to rely on standard shipment, so I got ready for a road trip to personally ferry the artifacts to Denver.

My husband and I flew to Branson and rented a car for the journey back home. Branson is an animated city- a Las Vegas for families, or Disneyland for adults. With a building shaped like a gargantuan octopus, a giant hot wheels track for go-kart racing, and an interactive attraction made to look like a mansion that was picked up and flipped upside-down, the Titanic Museum Attractions fits right in. We did not search long for our destination, as we pulled around a corner we saw the gigantic structure made to replicate the front half of the *Titanic* and its iceberg!

After over a year of communication back and forth about the loans, I finally got to meet Vice President and Curator, Paul Burns. He helped start Titanic Museum Attractions over 20 years ago and made sure the attraction centered on genuine historic *Titanic* artifacts. He knew there were artifacts out there; it was just a matter of locating them. He began making connections with both public and private collectors across the world, and one of those connections was Helen Benziger McKinney, great-great granddaughter of Margaret Brown. The same organization now operates a second museum attraction in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

Paul showed us around the Branson Titanic Museum Attraction, explaining the great efforts that went into individually placing each rivet on the “ship’s” exterior, and the years

of labor on one of the largest models of the *Titanic*, on display in the entrance. It also features a life-size replica of *Titanic*’s grand staircase and a promenade deck where the temperature drops and you can see a deck chair fly through the night sky just as the ship hit the iceberg. There are rooms and rooms of artifacts and survivor accounts that tell a broad story of the sinking and its many passengers.

After our visit, we carefully packed the loaned items in our rental car. Each artifact had been meticulously wrapped in ethafoam and then bubble wrapped for protection using painters tape, which has a safer adhesive in the off-chance it should touch one of the artifacts during unpacking. All the items were packed tightly inside waterproof crates to ensure nothing shifted or rattled during the long drive back to Denver.

After twelve-and-a-half hours through prairie and more prairie, we unloaded the artifacts back at the Molly Brown House Museum. I carefully opened the small box labeled “talisman” and unrolled the ethafoam. There it was, in my gloved hand: Margaret Brown’s tiny ushabti that made its way from Egypt in 1912, across the Atlantic, through one of the most well-known maritime disasters in history, and finally to the U.S. with its owner. Now it’s here in her Denver home from April 1 – September 25, where you can come see it for yourself! 🌸



Special thanks to our partners: Titanic Museum Attractions (Branson, MO/ Pigeon Forge, TN), Stanley & Laurel Lehrer Collection, Brian Hawley & Eric Sauder Collection, White Star Memories Collection, Joe Halpern Collection, History Colorado Center, and Telecommunications History Group.

Loaned items packed for the drive to Denver, CO



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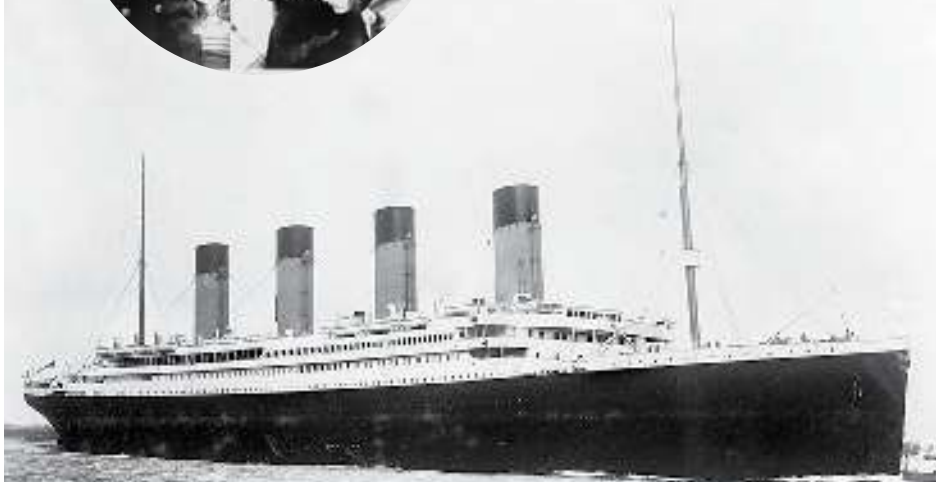
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# HEROINE OF THE TITANIC



AN EXHIBIT AT THE  
MOLLY BROWN  
HOUSE MUSEUM



APRIL 1 - SEPTEMBER 25

MOLLYBROWN.ORG/TITANIC

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Cindy Wolf (left) surveying with Discover Denver

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: CINDY WOLF

When Discover Denver volunteer Cindy Wolf isn't schussing down the snow-covered slopes or gardening in her yard, you can find her documenting historic buildings in one of Denver's many neighborhoods. A retired lawyer, she devotes multiple days a week to surveying as well as doing additional research for specific properties. I recently sat down with Cindy in her beautiful 1914 home to talk about her experiences with Discover Denver since joining the volunteer crew in 2017.

**Q: What do you like about volunteering with Discover Denver?**

**A:** There are so many things I enjoy about it. I love being outside and getting into a neighborhood, into areas I've never been to in our city. I feel more connected to Denver this way. I love the volunteers I work with and the flexible schedule that allows me to volunteer as much as I want.

**Q: What drew you to historic buildings and researching them?**

**A:** My father was an architect, and though I didn't appreciate the ranch house I grew up in outside of Chicago that he designed, I was always looking at buildings both old and new with him. After moving to the Cheesman Park/7th Avenue Historic District area 30+ years ago, my children went to Dora Moore Elementary School. I was very involved in the PTA at Dora Moore and they always tried to organize an historic neighborhood walking tour as a fundraiser. It never happened, but I really noticed what beautiful buildings we had around us and appreciated the beautiful details on them.

**Q: Do you have a favorite neighborhood you've surveyed?**

**A:** City Park West was wonderful because it had a lot of houses with longtime homeowners; I remember chatting with someone who was living in a house that belonged to her parents and her grandparents. There was such a great variety of housing styles there. It's also when I started getting involved in researching properties. I found Cole interesting with the worker housing and railroad/trolley history.

**Q: What is the most unusual/memorable building you've surveyed?**

**A:** There is a house in the South City Park neighborhood whose early owner was a female engineering architect who did many interesting projects around the city. And I'll never forget the pirate ship tree house or the full-size Darth Vader and stormtrooper standing in another tree house, both in Regis.

**Q: You've been a wonderful ambassador/recruiter for Discover Denver. What do you tell people when encouraging them to join the volunteer field survey crew?**

**A:** I'm usually out with a group of friends and we are chatting about things we've been doing. I'll share a story I uncovered on a property or talk about a neighborhood we're currently surveying, and they will start asking questions about Discover Denver. I explain the project to them and how I learn a lot about different neighborhoods as well as see some cool buildings. And then I point them to the survey coordinator to take a training so they can join me in the field! I think most people just don't know about the program but find it fascinating and love learning more about the city! 🌟

## INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING WITH THE DISCOVER DENVER TEAM?

Email Chris Geddes at [cgeddes@hsitoricdenver.org](mailto:cgeddes@hsitoricdenver.org) to find out about our next training.



# PRESERVATION BRIEFS



Shannon Stage, Manager of Grants and Preservation Services

Historic Elitch Theatre, one of Historic Denver’s Easement properties. Photo: Shannon Schaefer Stage, 2021



Peoples Presbyterian Church roof. Photo: Spectrum General Contractors, 2021

## PEOPLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – ROOF REHABILITATION 2780 YORK ST

Peoples Presbyterian Church roof rehabilitation project began at the end of February. With initial contracts finalized, the architect has begun the construction drawings, which will assist in the overall restoration when construction begins later this summer. The project, funded by the Colorado State Historical Fund (SHF) and managed by Historic Denver, will ensure that the long-time African American congregation can continue to meet in the building, and provide valuable community services.

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

#### EASEMENT PROPERTY INSPECTION

As one of the nation’s premier non-profit urban historic preservation organizations, Historic Denver works to protect and promote Denver’s historic places. Historic Denver’s preservation easement program began in 1972 with the Richthofen Castle. We now hold 70 easements on buildings in and around Denver and the portfolio includes stately mansions and churches, downtown mercantile buildings and mid-century modern gems. Do you have a background or passion in architecture, preservation, or construction and want to volunteer your time? You can assist by inspecting a few easement properties with our 2022 Easement Inspection Intern this summer.

As a part of this volunteer opportunity we will provide training on how to assess building conditions. Interested? **Contact Shannon Stage at 303-534-5288 x.25 or [ssstage@historicdenver.org](mailto:ssstage@historicdenver.org).**



Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church, west façade stained glass damage and deterioration. Photo: Shannon Schaefer Stage, 2021

## CAPITOL HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – EXTERIOR FAÇADE REHABILITATION 1100 FILLMORE ST

In February, the Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church team, which includes the church leadership, architect, Historic Denver and State Historical Fund representatives met to kick-off the project. The second phase of exterior rehabilitation for the church will focus on restoring the roof and parapet of the southwest tower, as well as restoration of the west façade stained glass windows. The project architect is currently working on construction drawings, which will advise the construction phase later this year.

### NEED PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE?

If you are a part of a non-profit or community-based group and are housed in a historic building in need of preservation TLC, you may be eligible for State Historical Funds!

You can find out more about the SHF grants at <https://www.historycolorado.org/state-historical-fund>. Did you know Historic Denver offers our SHF grant writing services and SHF grant management services to local non-profits?

**Call Shannon for more details: 303-534-5288 x. 25**





St. Cajetan's Church on the Auraria Campus

CITY OF DENVER’S  
NUESTRAS HISTORIAS PROJECT  
DOCUMENTS IMPORTANT PLACES IN DENVER

In February the City of Denver released Nuestras Historias, a context study documenting Mexican American, Latino/a and Chicano/a stories and sites across Denver. Funded by the Colorado State Historical Fund and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the study was the first of its kind in the city. Over the course of a year engaged local residents and community leaders informed the themes of the study and the places where these stories live on in our neighborhoods. Councilwomen Amanda Sandoval and Jamie Torres also provided financial support to the project, and the “I am Denver” Storytelling project visually documented parts of the story in a new short documentary.

The study, which was led by the Denver Landmark staff, consultants at Mead & Hunt, and Dr. Nicki Gonzales, the Colorado State Historian, focused on several key themes in Latino/a and Chicano/a history. These included religion and spirituality, education, labor, commerce, politics, art, and neighborhood life. Historic Denver’s context study about La Alma Lincoln Park, the first local historic/cultural district designated for its association with the Chicano movement, was one of the documents used to inform the project, but the community meetings and a series of small group oral-histories, conducted over Zoom, were invaluable.

As noted in the final document, this history has not been well documented or recognized through formal preservation designations in the past, but the history of Latinos/Chicanos runs deep in our state and local history. Spanish, Mexican, and Indigenous cultures came into contact as early as the 16th century in the American Southwest. By the early 19th century Southern Colorado had become a borderland between the United States, Mexico, and the resident Native Americans, and hundreds of small villages and ranches were home to families whose residence in Colorado pre-dates the region’s inclusion in the United States.

In what would become the Denver-area, Mexicans were the first to find the gold that would attract thousands. The discovery happened in 1857, near the current intersection of Dartmouth Avenue and South Platte, several months before the William Russell party made their claim on the South Platte near Auraria. Trade connections between Denver and Santa Fe attracted more newcomers, including Jesus Aubreyo, who opened a store in 1859 in the town of Auraria. Over the course of a century Auraria became a part of the Westside, and a tight-knit Latino and Chicano community, in part because of discrimination that limited where Mexican American and Latino Denverites could live. Portions of the Northside and the Eastside also developed strong Latino/Chicano culture and identities, with a large influx of Mexican-Americans arriving between 1900 and 1940 due to the Mexican Revolution, and changes in both agriculture and industry that shifted labor needs and opportunities.

The context documents provide an overview of these historical forces, bringing the history all the way forward through the Chicano/a movement of the later 20th century, which fostered political change, art, culture, and community pride among Denver’s Mexican American, Latino/a and Chicano/a communities.

The document then seeks to identify places and spaces associated with this history. In total more than 100 sites were identified as important representations of the Mexican

American/Latino/Chicano experience in Denver. Among the listed sites include buildings within the recent La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District, such as the Auraria Community Center, the La Alma Mural, and the Denver Inner City Parish, as well as individual local landmarks like Smith’s Chapel, West High School, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and St. Cajetan’s. The lists also include many sites that are currently unrecognized, including La Raza Park, the Aztlan Theater, the Chicano Humanities & Arts Council, which existed in multiple locations, the current location of Su Teatro, Escuela Tlatelolco, the Rodolfo & Geraldine Gonzales residence, the Holiday Theater, La Casa de Manuel, and dozens more. The full list of sites is available on-line through an interactive map that can be found on the city’s website with a quick search of “Denver’s Mexican American/Chicano/Latino Context Study.”

Context studies can be used in many ways, including informing city decisions, providing educational programs and content to community groups, and leading to historic designations for individual properties or districts. For example, the National Park Service published a national context study titled *American Latinos and the Making of the United States* in 2013, which has spurred additional nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and helped to catalyze the work of Latinos in Heritage Conservation, a national non-profit that advances the preservation of Latino/a heritage. LHC will host its fourth conference in Denver this Spring, attracted by the work taking place in our city to document, amplify, and protect these resources. 🌱

LATINOS

IN HERITAGE CONSERVATION

CONGRESO 2022 CONFERENCE:

APRIL 28-30

Historic Denver is excited to partner with Latinos in Heritage Conservation (LHC) to host Congreso 2022 in Denver from April 28-30, 2022. LHC was attracted to Denver because of the cultural heritage preservation work happening in our city, due in large part to Historic Denver’s concerted efforts with community groups. Over three days, presenters and attendees will discuss current and ongoing efforts to preserve and protect Latino/a heritage, including cultural district programs, innovative historic documentation methods, advocacy strategies, and best practices on inclusion.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED  
TO ATTEND THIS INSPIRING CONFERENCE.

Learn more and register for the conference here:  
[latinoheritage.us/congreso2022](http://latinoheritage.us/congreso2022)

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Cesar Chavez Mural painted by artist Javier Flores in the Westwood Neighborhood

## DISCOVER DENVER HEADS TO THE WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD

Chris Geddes, Discover Denver Coordinator



Last month, the City and County of Denver released their highly anticipated historic context study, *Nuestras Historias: Mexican American, Chicano, and Latino Histories in Denver*. The study will be useful to guide Discover Denver’s upcoming survey in the Westwood neighborhood. The study provides important background to the historically Latino/a neighborhood in southwest Denver, and helps by identifying buildings that are culturally, architecturally or historically significant.

Discover Denver is a joint project between the City and County of Denver and Historic Denver, Inc. Its primary goals are to survey every historic building in the city, moving neighborhood by neighborhood. The survey team uses a corps of volunteers to document the buildings, identifying resources with historical, architectural or cultural significance as well as educate the public about the city’s history. When Discover Denver begins work in a neighborhood, a significant amount of time is spent collaborating with the community. Our team connects with any Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNOs) as well as the City Councilperson to discuss the best approach to public outreach. Every neighborhood is different, and our approach is modified to best serve the specific community. The RNO and City Councilperson guide communication plans about the architectural survey so that residents are aware of who we are and what we are doing when we are surveying in their community.

For our current work in Westwood, we added additional time to our process to ensure that residents are aware of the project. The approach included communication in English, Spanish and Vietnamese that will be posted at libraries, schools, churches and local businesses. In addition, volunteers conducting surveys will hand out flyers when they interact with property owners. These efforts are designed to ensure that residents and business owners are comfortable with our work and our process. We also host Discovery Days. These days provide an opportunity for neighbors, former and present, to share information about the neighborhood with our team. Neighbors often bring photos for us to scan, share stories and recollections about their experiences in the area, and share what is important to them and their community. By hosting Discovery Days we hope to learn more about the architectural, cultural, and historical contributions of Westwood to

Denver’s history through documentation and in-depth research of the buildings.

When we begin the documentation process with handheld tablets, the survey team always talk with people they encounter and answer any questions they may have about our project. Neighbors are always curious about why we are standing in front of their house, taking pictures and studying it. Our conversations with community members provide integral information we might not otherwise find through the Denver Assessor’s website.

After field survey is complete, we review all collected data for accuracy and consistency, select buildings for archival research, and ultimately publish a final survey report. Neighborhoods can use the information to assist with neighborhood planning, guide work towards protection of important resources, and share the history of their community. Previous survey reports are available on the Discover Denver website. 🌱

## TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DISCOVER DENVER PROJECT

or find out about volunteer opportunities,  
visit the website at [discoverdenver.co/](https://discoverdenver.co/)



Super Carniceria La Hacienda, 845 S. Federal



Westwood Community Center, circa 1975 non-extant, photo courtesy of Denver Public Library



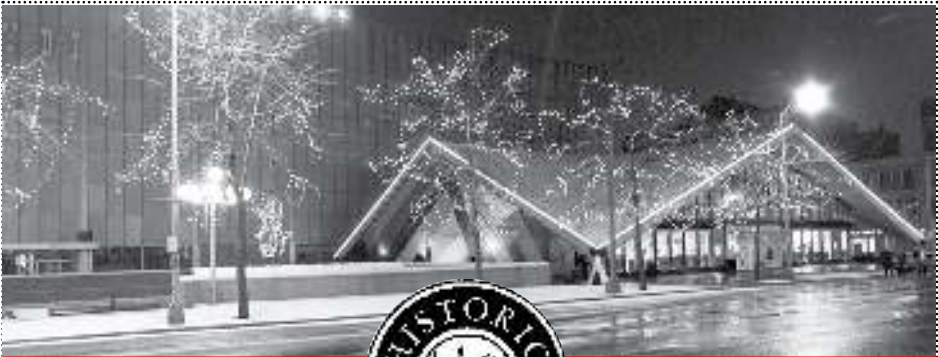
3601 Morrison Rd, circa 1990, photo courtesy of the Denver Public Library



# Thank You

New and Renewing Members January 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022

- |                           |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Terry Amicone             | Karen Harvey              | Gary & Sandy Nearpass     |
| Mary Beth Armbruster      | Robert F. Hayes           | Kathy Newman              |
| Darrell Arndt             | Holly Hedegaard           | Tom Noel                  |
| Natalia Ballinger         | Jeff Herren               | Ted & Jane Obrecht        |
| Charlie Barkmeier         | David Hill                | Elizabeth Orr             |
| Mark Barnhouse            | Jon Hindlemann            | Lynn Painter              |
| Cristin & Chris Barringer | Sarah Hite                | Ruth E. Parker            |
| Jane Bays                 | Tamara Hoffman            | Robin Payne               |
| Denise Bender             | Donna & Larry Hopee       | Stephen Penrose           |
| Seif Bendiff              | Gerald Herbert Horner     | Steven & Denise Perkins   |
| Michael & Alexe Benjamin  | Nicholas Hudgens          | Jim Perlberg              |
| Grant Bennett             | Chris Huggett             | John Pocernich            |
| Carolyn Benoit            | Brandon & Megan Hunnicutt | Cheryl Presley            |
| Helen Benziger McKinney   | Rachel Hunter             | Marilyn Quinn             |
| Kay Berenbaum             | Bob Janowski              | Diane Reed                |
| W. Bart Berger            | Jim Johnson               | Kent Rice                 |
| James S. Bershof          | Karen J. Jonas            | H. Christine Richards     |
| Anne & Brooks Bond        | Ann L. Jones              | Barbara S. Rigel          |
| Virginia Brannon          | Deborah Jones             | Douglas & Sheila Robinson |
| Chrissy Breit             | Jamy Jones                | Charlotte Rocha           |
| Lance Brown               | Jesse Kajer               | Bob & Nancy Ross          |
| Jennifer L. Buddenborg    | Jared Kamm                | Roger Rowland             |
| Patrick Caldwell          | Autumn Kay                | Robert Sarlo              |
| Susan M. Carlson          | William Keenan            | Sandra Scherer            |
| Michael Carr              | Martha Kelce              | Brad & Ruth Segal         |
| Jane Cates                | Kevin Kelly               | Cynthia Shearer           |
| Bar Chadwick              | Jana Kellyova             | Rhonda Skallan            |
| Merle Chambers            | Laurie Kepros             | Michael A. Smith          |
| Barbara Chapman           | Rita King                 | Jeannine Spicer           |
| Nathan Church             | Diana Kinsey              | Elizabeth & Matt Spohn    |
| Paul Cloyd                | Alexis Kittner            | Arianthe Stettner         |
| Stacy Coleman             | Michelle Klem             | Erick Stowe               |
| Edith Conklin             | Robin Koncilja            | Tina Strauss              |
| Fawn Dabrowiak            | Michael Korenblat         | Stephen Subber            |
| Dan & Barb Danbom         | Sarah Krause              | Vincent Szafranko         |
| John Daniels              | Leon & Kate Krier         | Christine Tanner          |
| Michael Davenport         | Lindsie Lee               | Diane Travis              |
| Mark Davidson             | Maria LeFebre             | Tina Marie & TJ Trump     |
| Kathlyn Dayhoff           | Phyllis Lerud             | Peggy Ulrich-Nims         |
| Judith Delein             | Sasha & Kathy Lopez       | Julie Van Camp            |
| Martha Dell               | Callie Ludwig             | Ruth Vanderkooi           |
| Stephen Ekman             | Teena Luehrsen            | Olivia Verity-Trivedi     |
| Lynn Emery                | Pamela Mahonchak          | Erica Vincent             |
| Vivian & Ted Epstein      | Mary Mathews              | Rich Von Luhrte           |
| Ashley & Adam Espinosa    | Byron & Judy Matson       | Cindy Ward                |
| Don & Carolyn Etter       | Matthew Mazowski          | Carol Warner              |
| Martha Eubanks            | Carla McConnell           | Howard Weatherhead        |
| Josephine Fairbanks       | Nancy McCurdy             | Ashleigh Weatherill       |
| Jonathan Futa             | Tom & Lisa McHenry        | Jonathan Weaver           |
| Tish Gance                | Lisa McIntyre             | Susan Wehr Livingston     |
| Alan Gass                 | Steve Means               | Brian White               |
| Sue Glassmacher           | Rick Meis                 | Sierra White              |
| Sandra Glick              | John Mikle                | Kathleen Wiggs            |
| Matt Goebel               | Kim Montes                | Linda & Mark Wilson       |
| Margie Hahn               | Kim & John Moore          | Kathryn Wirkus            |
| Susan Halpern             | Sharon Morgan             | Susan Worthman            |
| Laura Hargrave            | Teresa Morrisette         | Barbara J. Yost           |
| Bernice Harris            | Chris Murata              | Claire L. Young           |
| Duke & Pam Hartman        | Ryan Murphy               |                           |
| Rudi Hartmann             | Ron Naeve                 |                           |



## SUPPORT HISTORIC DENVER / MOLLY BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM THROUGH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

### MONTHLY KEYSTONE MEMBERSHIP

☐ \$5/mo ☐ \$10/mo ☐ \$20/mo ☐ \$100/mo

### YEARLY MEMBERSHIP

Senior discount is \$10 off the following membership levels

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$45/yr                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Dual \$65/yr           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$80/yr  | <input type="checkbox"/> VIP Associate \$125/yr |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VIP Contributor \$250/yr                                |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to make an additional donation of \$ _____ |   |

Name(s) to appear on membership card(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Check Credit Card: \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_ AmEx \_\_\_ Discover

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Verification #: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please visit [historicdenver.org/support](http://historicdenver.org/support) to learn about the benefits at each membership level.



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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To purchase tickets to upcoming events visit:  
historicdenver.org



## HEROINE OF THE TITANIC

exhibit

APRIL 1 - SEPTEMBER 25

### HEROINE OF THE TITANIC

Join us this summer at the Molly Brown House Museum to commemorate 110 years since the sinking of the RMS *Titanic*. Discover a heroine’s story through rare *Titanic* artifacts and never-before-seen family documents. The exhibit brings survivors’ memories of that fateful night to life – including those of Margaret Brown. She was not known as “Unsinkable” during her lifetime, but instead as the *Heroine of the Titanic*.

Go back in time to 1912 as you walk through the Browns’ Capitol Hill house and find awe-inspiring objects, photographs, and documents in every room. You will follow the experience of Margaret Brown, a survivor who helped row a lifeboat through the night to safety. She made it her mission to comfort and raise money for *Titanic*’s immigrant passengers who lost everything on their journey to a new world.

Learn about the tragedy through Margaret’s many *Titanic* interviews including her first one, given when she was still on board the rescue ship. Her memories and those of other *Titanic* survivors will prove just how difficult it can be to know what really happened that night.

The exhibit runs April 1 – September 25, 2022 and is included with all tour ticket purchases.

- ART ON PENN: LET’S PAINT THE TITANIC!**

Thursday, April 21 • 7-8pm • Virtual or In-Person • \$12-30

Want an engaging experience that can be had from home or in person? Look no further! We’ve got you covered with the “Titanic at Night” guided painting class. Join us virtually or in person for a fun evening of art instruction. While the artwork will be guided, you will create a piece that is uniquely yours. A little nervous? Don’t worry! Amy will guide you step by step to recreate the featured work of art.
- REALTOR SEMINAR: UNDERSTANDING AND SELLING HISTORIC HOMES**

Wednesday, April 27 • 12-4:30pm • Virtual \$45/member • \$60/non-member

Our popular Realtor Seminar, Understanding and Selling Historic Homes, will be offered once again on Wednesday, April 27, from 12 to 4:30pm. This 3 credit course covers 150 years of Denver Architecture, an exploration of the various types of historic protections, maintenance pointers and sales tips. We are offering the course virtually, in order to join us and receive all 3 of the education credits you must have video capability, and remain present for the entirety of course.
- EMPOWERED BY PLACE: AMACHE**

Wednesday, May 4 • 7-8:30pm • Virtual • Free, Donations Appreciated

Come learn about Denver’s connections to the Amache Relocation Center in Granada, CO. Used from 1941-45 as a relocation center for Japanese Americans living on the West Coast, Amache tells an important story about our past, and was recently made a National Park. Our guests will include friends from Colorado Preservation Inc., which has been working on the preservation of the site, as well as descendants of families that experienced internment and ultimately made their way to Denver after the war, such as the family of Derek Okubo, which ran Ben’s Market in northeast Denver for many years.
- 1340 PENN AFTER HOURS: GAME NIGHT**

Thursday, May 12 • 6:30-8:30pm • \$20/non-members • \$16/members

Will you find the love of your life tonight? Join us for flirting Victorian style! You can look, just don’t touch. Get ready for a preposterously good time with a Victorian soiree that provides a historical look into flirting Victorian style-through activities and games. Come ready to participate in engaging activities of a bygone era. Enjoy a risqué look at Victorian life, signature cocktails and salacious vignettes perfect for good-timers and geeks alike!

- TITANIC TRIVIA AT COPPER KETTLE BREWING**

Monday, May 16 • 6-8pm • 1338 S Valentia St #100, Denver, CO 80247

We’re partnering with the Copper Kettle Brewing Company and Mile High Music Patrol to bring you a one of kind trivia event focused on nothing but the *Titanic*, her passengers, and that fateful night. In addition to testing your knowledge, we’ll also be holding a silent auction to support the Molly Brown House Museum. Here’s a chance to show off your *Titanic* knowledge and party like Jack & Rose in Third Class.
- A DEEPER DIVE SERIES: THE IMMIGRANT STORY: MEALS ABOARD TITANIC**

Tuesday, May 24 • 7-8pm • Virtual • Free

The *Titanic* made her mark by offering the height of Edwardian elegance and glamour, which included quality accommodations and meals for all travelers, including those in Steerage Class. Veronica Hike, culinary historian and the author of *The Last Night on The Titanic: Unsinkable Drinking, Dining and Style*, will join us to discuss the foods that were served in third class aboard the *Titanic*, and about how mealtimes differed between the classes.

A Deeper Dive is our speaker series accompanying the *Titanic* exhibit, from April-September, offering opportunities to talk to experts about the larger story of the *Titanic* disaster. Registration required to attend.
- HISTORIC HOME ROUND UP**

Thursday, May 26 • 5:30-8:30pm • Centro San Juan Diego, 2830 Lawrence St. Denver, CO 80205 • Free, Donations Appreciated

Each year our round-up tackles common issues and ideas for those living in historic homes. Back in-person this year we’ll offer sessions on historic home maintenance, energy efficiency, Accessory Dwelling Units, and neighborhood research. This free program provides an opportunity to feel like a confident steward of your home!
- SALON SERIES/ WOMEN’S AUTONOMY: MY BODY, NO CHOICE?**

Thursday, June 2 • 7-8pm • Free Donations Appreciated

Women’s health has again been in the headlines. Starting in Margaret Brown’s time, we’ll look at the history and politics of women and trans people’s healthcare to better understand where we are today and what life-altering changes may lie ahead.

The Salon Series is a FREE community conversation hosted by museum staff and community advocates to discuss current issues regarding gender rights. Using the story of Margaret Brown and looking back into history, together we will discover how we’ve arrived at this moment. While this series is free, you must register to attend.

- PRIVATE SPACES: QUEER CAPITOL HILL WALKING TOUR (1880 - 1980)**

Saturday June 4 • 1-3pm  
\$25/person •

See page 3 for complete details or visit: [historicdenver.org/walkingtours](https://historicdenver.org/walkingtours)
- ART ON PENN: SUMMERTIME SIP & CRAFT**

Saturday, June 4 • 6-8pm  
\$25/In-person Class (includes kit)

It is a well-known fact that Margaret Brown traveled to many places throughout the world over the course of her life, often picking up artifacts, art and inspiration along the way. One of the most striking and prominent examples of this in her house is that of the lions which grace the front porch. Join us to create your own clay board etching inspired by the “The House of Lions.”
- CAPITAL CROSSROADS SCAVENGER HUNT**

June 9-12 • \$12-18/person

Are you ready to uncover more about Denver’s past while following a series of clues through the city? You’ll have 4 days to complete your hunt—although it should take something closer to 2.5 hours. Go by foot, go by bike, or any way you like! The hunt is an innovative way to uncover more about the city you love, while enjoying a fun activity with family, friends, or even on your own. Teams of up to six players have four days to complete the challenge.
- A DEEPER DIVE SERIES: INTO TITANIC: CHARLES HAAS / TITANIC AND THE IRISH**

Saturday, June 18 • 4:00pm @ Talnua Distillery •\$25 pp for in-person; \$10 virtual access only

For in-person ticket holders, the evening will start at 4:00 pm with a whiskey tasting session at our host location - Talnua Distillery. The tasting will be followed by a presentation from Museum staff on the connections between Margaret Brown, Ireland, and the *Titanic*. From the Talnua tap room, we will virtually welcome world-renowned *Titanic* scholar Charles Haas who will share stories and answer questions about his conversations with *Titanic* survivors and his experiences visiting the *Titanic* wreck site. The evening will wrap up with our friends at Irish Network Colorado who will share their efforts to memorialize Colorado’s Irish of days past.

For virtual ticket holders joining us from around the world, the live virtual presentation with *Titanic* scholar Charles Haas will begin at 5:00 pm MT followed by a moderated Q&A. Virtual access is \$10 per registration.

A Deeper Dive is our speaker series accompanying the *Titanic* exhibit, from April-September, offering opportunities to talk to experts about the larger story of the *Titanic* disaster. Registration required to attend.