

Left: Thanks to our new Collections Acquisition Fund, the museum now holds this letter from Margaret to daughter. Right: Margaret presented this "loving cup" to Carpathia Captain Arthur Rostron as a token of thanks from Titanic survivors. Photo: Denver Public Library Special Collections, Z-109

## NEW FUND BRINGS RARE TITANIC ARTIFACTS TO THE MOLLY BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM

by Andrea Malcomb, Historic Denver Vice President & Museum Director, and Stephanie McGuire, Curator of Collections

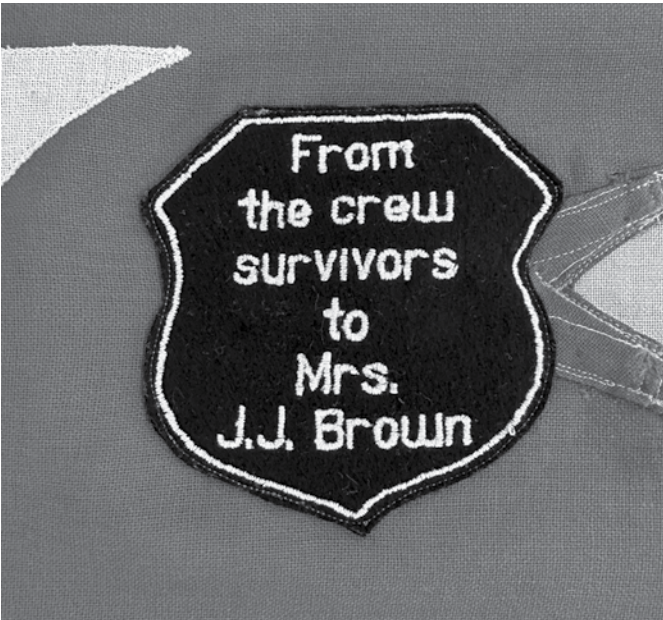
For the first time ever, the Molly Brown House Museum has a Collections Acquisition Fund! Through a generous donation from Historic Denver Board Chair Joe Halpern, who is passionate about helping museums acquire and preserve material culture, Historic Denver now has a dedicated financial reserve fund to cover the costs associated with acquiring objects that fit the museum's mission, namely acquiring Brown family-related artifacts and associated costs such as transportation and conservation.

Equally exciting is the news that we've already made the first acquisition from this fund! Curator of Collections Stephanie McGuire recently travelled to Carbondale, Illinois, to pick up items from the estate of Katherine Benziger. The late Benziger was the great-granddaughter of Margaret Brown, and inherited several pieces of Margaret's furniture, a collection of daughter Helen's silver serving pieces, and over 130 Brown family letters. Museum staff are now carefully reviewing, transcribing, and photographing each of the 130 letters, which, because they were kept by Benziger in protective sleeves, are in great condition. While the letters are largely correspondence between daughter Helen and her husband, George, staff are always excited to see letters confirming family stories, and that we may discover new stories that illuminate or even change how we talk about Margaret and the Brown family.

Included in the letters is one written by Margaret to her daughter Helen days after the Titanic disaster. In it, Margaret reassured her daughter that she was well after the sinking, since Helen had remained in Paris while her mother boarded the Titanic. Margaret has a great sense of humor in the letter, stating, "After being brined, salted and pickled in mid ocean I am now high and dry." This letter fills in details of her experience and confirms what all the newspapers had been reporting — that she was given the moniker "Heroine of the Titanic" for her work helping the survivors on board the rescue ship, Carpathia.

Margaret spearheaded the formation of the Titanic Survivor's Committee while still on board the rescue ship Carpathia. The Committee started a fund "for immediate relief to some of the steerage passengers," pressuring wealthy survivors to donate. They raised \$10,000 before reaching New York. White Star Line policies stated that crew members' pay would terminate if their ship went down, so the survivors and their families no longer had an income. As for Titanic's crew, who were now out of jobs, Margaret pleaded with Bruce Ismay, managing director of White Star Line, to "look out for the sufferers." The crew, however, received only minimal compensation from White Star Line years later. It was Margaret's Committee that offered support to the crew immediately, ensuring their return home to England, and requesting they retain their employment.

In an interview on April 30, 1912, Margaret explained, "I undertook to arrange for the



This nautical flag, given to Margaret to thank her for championing Titanic's remaining crew, was formerly owned by two well-known collectors. Photo: Stephanie McGuire

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# FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO



We are excited to head into the warmer weather with a red-hot announcement about the latest additions to our collection. Thanks to a generous gift seeding our new Collections Acquisition Fund, we are welcoming new pieces to the Molly Brown House Museum that reinforce the museum’s status as one of the country’s foremost women’s history sites — all while connecting the story of Margaret Brown to the realities of the present day. I am grateful to our supporters for enabling us to secure these items and cannot wait for you all to see them in the beautiful Molly Brown House Museum.

Can you imagine Denver without this beloved museum? I certainly cannot but, at one point, the demolition of the building that the Browns once called home was a very real possibility. Without 1340 Pennsylvania St., and the authentic collection now housed within, the story of Margaret’s philanthropy, drive for women’s rights, and support for the working poor would likely be lost in Denver (not to mention both her and J.J. Brown’s success story as the children of immigrants, the house’s

life as a boarding house for gay men, and the many other tales now known because this structure still stands). Historic Denver will continue to challenge the need for demolition throughout the city: Once a building is gone, the story it once told is gone too.

This will come into sharp focus during National Preservation Month in May, with events planned across the country. Close to home, our very own Love Old Buildings Expo offers owners, tenants, and other interested parties the opportunity to connect with vendors and presenters who can support their efforts to maintain and celebrate older buildings. The Expo offers opportunities for both residential and commercial structures while championing the thoughtful integration of the old with the new. Excitingly, the event will be held within one of Denver’s most historic buildings — The El Jebel Shrine at 1770 Sherman St. Tours of the stunning interior are included in the ticket price and will run throughout the afternoon. I am not often lost for words, but the stunning ballroom got me there.

Finally, April’s status as National Volunteer month reminds me I would once again like to thank those on the frontline of delivering Historic Denver’s mission: our team of passionate and dedicated volunteers. Each year, they give more than 5,000 hours of their time to bring history to life by guiding our walking tours, supporting guests at the Molly Brown House Museum, and surveying buildings throughout the city as part of the Discover Denver citywide survey. We are grateful for them all year round: You are not just part of our organization; you are our organization.

John Deffenbaugh  
President & CEO, Historic Denver and the  
Molly Brown House Museum



Stunning original details remain intact at the Mosque of the El Jebel Shrine of the  
Mystic Order. Photo: Jay Homstad



HISTORIC DENVER, INC.  
1420 Ogden Street, Denver, CO 80218  
303.534.5288  
historicdenver.org

MOLLY BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM  
1340 Pennsylvania St., Denver, CO 80203  
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Culture for all.

NEW FUND BRINGS RARE TITANIC ARTIFACTS TO THE MOLLY BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM



Curator Stephanie McGuire, Historic Denver Board Chair Joe Halpern, and Historic Denver Vice President & Museum Director Andrea Malcomb pose with the flag, which goes on display at the Molly Brown House Museum April 10, just ahead of the 113th anniversary of the Titanic disaster. Photo: Courtesy Andrea Malcomb

care of the friendless and short crew of the Titanic, 200 of whom, it was told me, were penniless.”

Margaret’s efforts to champion for the Titanic’s surviving crew leads us to another exciting and unprecedented addition to the museum’s collection: A commemorative nautical flag, which has an embroidered central emblem thanking Mrs. J.J. (Margaret) Brown on behalf of the survivors of the Titanic crew, has been donated to the museum. This commemorative flag, also known as a burgee, comes from two well-known collections. It first belonged to the Kenneth C. Schultz Collection, with Schultz being a respected collector of Titanic artifacts and memorabilia, who also advised on James Cameron’s 1997 blockbuster film, *Titanic*. More recently, the flag was in the collection of Paul G. Allen, the now deceased founder of Microsoft. Allen had an extensive collection of both space and maritime artifacts, which went up for auction last summer through Christie’s New York.

Now in the Molly Brown House Museum’s collection, the flag has undergone conservation with local textile conservator, Paulette Reading. A padded mount now better supports the cotton fabric, which had warped overtime. Reading also performed some surface cleaning and made a few small repairs. During the conservation process, Stephanie McGuire and her collections team have been hard at work researching the flag’s history as well as Margaret’s work to support the surviving Titanic crew.

These, and many more special artifacts, will be the centerpiece of the museum’s newest exhibit, *See Justice Done: The Legacy of the Titanic Survivors’ Committee*. The title, *See Justice Done*, stems from a newspaper interview with Margaret Brown in the days after the Titanic disaster. She told the reporter that, “Hundreds of lives were needlessly sacrificed in this great disaster; and I, for one, am eager to see justice done.”

*See Justice Done: The Legacy of the Titanic Survivors’ Committee* opens April 10 and runs through September 22 and is included with museum admission. Come visit the museum to see the flag, Margaret’s “Heroine” letter, and other fascinating artifacts linked to Margaret’s Titanic experience. ■

COMPANION EVENTS TO SEE JUSTICE DONE INCLUDE:

APRIL 12

TITANIC TEA – Margaret “Molly” Brown was unsinkable in more ways than staying afloat in the Titanic disaster in 1912. Learn about her life by exploring the historic home then enjoy a high tea with fruit, scones, tea sandwiches, desserts, and Margaret’s favorite blend of tea. \$45 Member; \$50 Non-member.

APRIL 14 & 21

HOMESCHOOL DAY: BUILDING THE TITANIC – Explore the fascinating story of how the Titanic was built! Through interactive activities, students will learn about the ship’s design and construction, discover the technology of the era, and uncover the lives of the workers who made the RMS Titanic a reality. \$14 Student, \$5 Adult.

APRIL 17

1340 PENN AFTER HOURS: TRANSATLANTIC TITANIC TRIVIA – Are you a Titanic Trivia pro? Come test your knowledge at our second 1340 Penn After Hours event where we will test your knowledge of the Titanic history and pop culture through trivia and other activities in the historic home of Titanic survivor, Margaret “Molly” Brown! Signature Cocktail (21+) or Mocktail provided with ticket! \$25 Member, \$30 Non-member.

SUPPORT OUR COLLECTION

If museum collections are your passion too, consider supporting Curator Stephanie McGuire and her work to care for and add to our collections. Donate today, specifying “MB Curator” with your gift!

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# PRESERVATION BRIEFS



Denver’s first Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) were carriage houses much like the one at Molly Brown House Museum, pictured here in the mid 1980s. Photo: Denver Public Library Special Collections, Z-10848

**ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS APPROVED CITYWIDE:  
A WIN FOR HOUSING AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

by Jay B. Homstad, Director of Preservation Advocacy & Membership

In an effort to expand affordable housing options, Denver City Council approved Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) citywide late last year. As of December 16, 2024, homeowners in all residential zones can now build these smaller, self-contained living spaces without undergoing an expensive and time-consuming rezoning process.

This change, sponsored by Councilmembers Sarah Parady, Darrell Watson, and Chris Hinds, builds on years of effort to expand housing options in Denver while ensuring ADUs integrate seamlessly into existing neighborhoods. It also aligns the city with new state legislation requiring municipalities to permit ADUs in all residential districts.

**What Are ADUs and Why Are They Important?**

ADUs, sometimes called carriage houses, granny flats, or backyard cottages, are secondary residential units built on the same property as a primary home. They can be located above a garage, in a basement, or as standalone structures. Historically, ADUs were common in Denver’s early neighborhoods, providing flexible housing options for families and renters alike.

Healthy neighborhoods rely on diverse housing options. ADUs contribute by adding smaller rentals, multigenerational spaces, and downsizing opportunities while preserving historic and architectural variety. Housing experts, including the National Council of State Housing Agencies, the National Center for Healthy Housing, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (best known as HUD), emphasize that sustainable neighborhoods include homes for first responders, seniors, and working families near jobs and services. ADU approval fosters “gentle density” without large-scale redevelopment citywide, ensuring Denver’s built environment evolves to meet modern housing needs.

Some worry that allowing ADUs citywide will suddenly flood neighborhoods with new units, causing traffic and parking issues. But data shows that ADUs are built gradually, not all at once. It’s important to recognize that ADUs can help accommodate Denver’s future housing needs, especially as a significant portion of the city’s population growth in the coming years is expected to come from within — families growing and aging in place — rather than an influx of new residents.

Since Denver first allowed ADUs in select neighborhoods in 2010, fewer than 500 permits have been issued. Even with citywide approval, projections estimate only 200 to 300 ADUs will be built per year — a modest increase relative to the city’s overall housing demand. This gradual growth ensures that ADUs meet local housing needs without overwhelming neighborhoods.

For example, Seattle saw ADU construction quadruple after similar reforms, yet even at its peak, new ADUs made up a small fraction of total housing growth. The reality is that ADUs are expensive to build, and permitting, financing, and construction timelines naturally limit how quickly they can be developed.

While zoning approval is a major hurdle cleared, the biggest barrier to ADU development remains cost. Construction costs for a new ADU can range from \$200,000 to over \$300,000, making them an expensive investment that remains inaccessible to many.

Despite rental income potential, high upfront costs, permitting fees, and financing hurdles still make ADUs unattainable for many homeowners. Advocates are pushing for financial incentives—such as low-interest loans, grants, and fee waivers—to improve accessibility.

**ADUs and Historic Preservation: A Natural Fit**

One of the strongest arguments for ADUs is their compatibility with historic preservation and sustainability. The National Trust for Historic Preservation refers to this as “density without demolition.” ADUs allow for additional housing without demolishing existing structures, disrupting historic streetscapes, or adding unnecessary waste to landfills.

In 2016, the National Trust released the Atlas of ReUrbanism, a study highlighting the economic and social benefits of older neighborhoods. The report found that areas with a mix of building ages and smaller structures — like those in Denver’s historic districts — support stronger local economies, provide more affordable housing options, and foster vibrant small business growth. By expanding ADUs in historic neighborhoods, Denver can continue this tradition, ensuring gradual, preservation-friendly growth that benefits both homeowners and renters.

For homeowners, ADUs can be a financial lifeline, helping to offset maintenance costs for aging properties. They also offer flexibility for multigenerational living and provide longtime residents with the option to downsize while remaining in their community — ensuring Denver’s historic neighborhoods remain vibrant for generations to come.

ADUs support sustainable growth while protecting Denver’s historic fabric. By allowing homeowners to add housing without demolishing existing structures, ADUs promote small-scale, incremental development that has long defined Denver’s historic neighborhoods.

Preservation is not just about protecting buildings—it’s about keeping neighborhoods livable and adaptable. Neighborhoods with diverse building ages are more resilient, and ADUs strengthen this adaptability by allowing communities to grow from within rather than pushing out longtime residents through redevelopment. By balancing growth with preservation, ADUs help ensure Denver’s historic neighborhoods remain active, welcoming, and economically sustainable for generations to come.

However, if ADUs are to truly serve as a tool for affordability, we must continue advocating for financial incentives — such as grants, low-interest loans, and fee reductions — to make them a realistic option for more homeowners. Without these efforts, this promising solution may remain out of reach for many families who need it most.

## FOLLOW THAT STORY

Find out more about the new Citywide Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) policy on the Community Planning and Development section of the City and County of Denver website.





The polar bears at Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance originally called Bear Mountain home before being moved to more suitable quarters in the late 1980s. Photo: Denver Public Library Special Collections, X-20121

BEAR MOUNTAIN AND THE BEGINNINGS OF THE DENVER ZOO

by Alison Salutz, Director of Education and Community Impact

The Denver Zoo likely owes its origins to a black bear named Billy Bryan. The bear was captured near Carbondale in 1896 by a transfer agent for the Colorado Midland Railroad and gifted to then-mayor Thomas McMurray. Billy Bryan was brought to the newly opened City Park, where citizens from all around Denver came to catch a view.

Because there was no permanent accommodation there, the creature was first tied to a stake in the park and later kept in a somewhat ramshackle cage. When the bear got loose later that year and broke into a nearby chicken coop, it was obvious that the animal needed a permanent home. Although it initially lacked planning and funding, the Denver Zoo was established; the nonprofit now spans 80-acres of zoological gardens and changed its name to Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance in 2024 to recognize its larger role as a conservation organization.

Victor Borchert, who had already worked with his father Rudolph to create some of the earliest dioramas at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, became the head animal keeper in 1912 and was promoted to superintendent in 1915. He was heavily influenced by Carl Hagenbeck, a German wild animal supplier who believed in developing zoo enclosures that were more similar to the animal’s natural environment. Hagenbeck’s philosophies diverted greatly from the Victorian trend of keeping animals in cages or menageries.

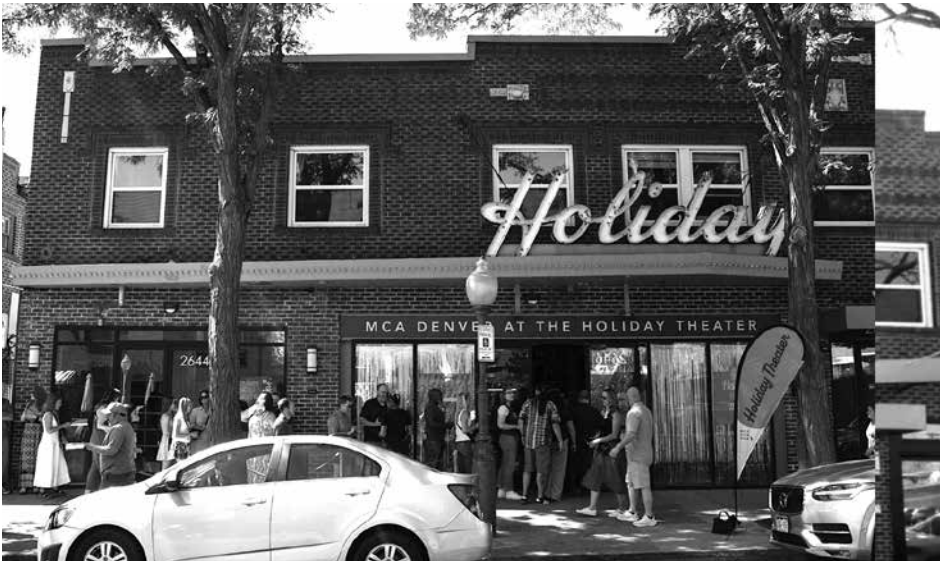
Borchert tried to convince Denver’s administration of the benefits of a habitat zoo but wasn’t granted permission until Mayor Robert Speer returned to office for another term in 1916. Bear Mountain was the first enclosure in the United States that incorporated Hagenbeck’s concepts. Although World War I hampered construction due to labor and material shortages, the project was completed in 1919. It was recognized for its innovative design in publications like Popular Mechanics, Architectural Record, and American City.

Built of molded concrete meant to look like natural rock outcroppings, plaster casts along the sandstone “hogback” near Morrison were taken to replicate the natural rock. The eastern end replicates the cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde. The top is filled with dirt for living trees and shrubs. The structure includes two bear habitats, with two open-air bear pits, dens, and concrete moat between each bear pit and the public. There is a “Keeper’s Passage,” which provides access from each of the dens into the pits, as well as a monkey habitat. A log cabin was constructed in the 1920s, as was a fence to keep the public back from the edge. The zoo was initially open to automobile traffic and cars could drive up to Bear Mountain, although by 1959, automobiles were no longer allowed in the zoo.

Bear Mountain was initially used for black bears but eventually the western den was occupied by grizzly bears, with polar bears in the central den. Monkeys were housed on the eastern end of the complex, although it was difficult to contain them: They often escaped to nearby trees and were relocated in 1921. The monkeys at Bear Mountain were replaced by a group of sea lions.

The success of the natural habitat concept at Denver Zoo was acknowledged and replicated across the U.S. Eventually Victor Borchert took a job with the St. Louis Zoo to build a similar exhibit there. Saco De Boer, Denver’s official landscape architect from 1910-1931, continued to expand Denver Zoo upon Borchert’s ideas. In his 1928 drawings for further expansion of the zoo, the habitat concept is present throughout.

Bear Mountain today remains largely unchanged from its original design and was nominated to Historic Denver’s 50 Actions for 50 Places campaign. The log cabin was removed and replaced with a sunken pool to better serve the polar bears, who were moved to more suitable quarters in 1987. Bear Mountain was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986 and underwent a \$250,000 restoration that was completed in 1989. The innovative natural habitat model that was implemented at Bear Mountain more than 100 years ago remains the standard for zoos across the world. The last bears left Bear Mountain in 2019. Bear Mountain is currently undergoing a structural analysis to ensure its integrity for future program development and may be reimaged for other types of programs in the future.



The Egyptian Theater in the Potter Highlands neighborhood was renamed the Holiday Theater in the 1950s. Photo: MCA Denver

POTTER HIGHLANDS, THEN AND NOW

by Leah Charney, Historic Denver Managing Editor

Highland. Highlands. Scottish Highlands. Highland Park. West Highland. Potter Highlands. Whether you call the overall area “The Highlands” or “The Northside,” its many neighborhoods with similar names often confuses newcomers and longtime Denverites alike. These names mark the pattern of expansion as Denver grew from a tent city to a dusty supply town to a thriving metropolis.

After General William Larimer waded across the Platte River from the nascent Denver City in 1858, he named that new township claim Highland, no “S.” Legend has it that when Denver and Auraria decided to merge a year and a half later, a barrel of whiskey sweetened the deal, but the town of Highland came along for the ride too. The North Denver area began to grow as more people came to the Colorado Territory to seek their fortunes and their futures.

When Walter McDuffie Potter came to Denver in 1863, he saw the potential for saving souls and established the First Baptist Church. Potter bought 320 acres on a hill overlooking Denver in 1864, before taking ill, returning to the East, and dying in 1866 at age 29. When his estate was finally settled in 1872, parcels were divided up and sold to developers, including those that became the Town of Highlands and the area we know today as the Potter-Highlands Historic District.

By 1890, Highlands included more than 35 separate sub-divisions, most with a streetcar line nearby; the pockets of local businesses and commercial corridors that still dot thoroughfares like 32nd Avenue are the remnant of those bygone streetcar stops. Scottish Highlands, part of a subdivision platted by General William Jackson Palmer and Dr. William A. Bell in 1874, left behind curved streets with names like Argyle Place and Firth Court. And the Town of Highlands, incorporated in 1875, wanted to live up to a name that evoked status and superiority.

Like that city on a hill extolled by the Gospel of Matthew, boosters for the Town of Highlands touted the clean air, clean water, and, of course, clean morals. Town of Highlands’ physical location put it above the smoke stacks and ore smelters of the dirty city below. And its prohibitively expensive liquor licenses — which cost more than \$140,000 in today’s dollars — ensured no bars (nor known houses of ill-repute) would sully its reputation either.

Henri Foster first laid out the Town of Highlands’ streets and then built its first house on Fairview (today’s 32nd Avenue). Foster’s Italianate-style house, one of the oldest remaining in Denver, still stands today at 2533 W. 32nd Ave. Patrick McGowan, one of Highlands’ incorporators and a member of the Highlands Board of Trustees, is believed to have built the second house. His octagonal wood-framed house also remains at 2633 W. 37th Ave. Their hopes of remaining that city on a hill were short-lived, however. Due to financial strain, Town of Highlands residents voted in 1896 to be annexed to Denver.

The Denver Landmark Commission established the Potter-Highlands Historic District in 1979, and then greatly enlarged to the current historic district boundaries in 1987. The district’s boundaries run from Federal Boulevard to Zuni Street and West 32nd to West 38th Avenues. ■

FOLLOW THAT STORY

Learn more about the neighborhood, where cottages were purposely built next to mansions, on our Potter Highlands Specialty Tour. From the Scottish and English immigrants who settled here to the Italian and Mexican immigrants who later called this place home, the area has always attracted diverse groups. Founded with moral high ground in mind, the KKK held meetings in at least one neighborhood church in the 1920s and an infamous unsolved murder still haunts a stately mansion turned bed and breakfast. Tours are offered on select Saturdays throughout the spring, summer, and fall.

On May 28, join us for **Night Out in Potter Highlands**, part of our Cocktails in Cool Places program. During this progressive cocktail party, we’ll start in one spot and travel to several locations throughout this northwest Denver neighborhood to enjoy snacks, drinks, and history on our **Night Out in Potter Highlands**. Thanks to our friends at MCA Denver, one of our sites is the Egyptian Theater (Holiday Theater), which still boasts Egyptian-inspired interior details. Fun fact: the Holiday was potentially the first theater in Colorado to show Spanish-language films! Tickets at [historicdenver.org](http://historicdenver.org).





Photos: Courtesy of Denver Union Station and The Crawford Hotel

10 YEARS AFTER REOPENING, UNION STATION IS RE-IMAGINED AGAIN

by Leah Charney, Historic Denver News Managing Editor

Re-imagining is practically part of the ethos at Denver Union Station. When it first opened in 1881, Denver’s Union Station was designed to make an impression on those traveling westward. The pink rhyolite was plucked from nearby Castle Rock and bedecked in bold Second Empire details, like decorative cresting along the rooflines. Just 14 years later, the building was updated again, with those flourishes removed and a taller, Richardsonian Romanesque clocktower replacing the center structure that now saw thousands of passengers a day. And, in 1914, the grand Beaux Arts white terra cotta tile and pink granite based building we all know now took center stage.

As train travel and transportation habits changed, so too did Denver Union Station. To welcome visitors (and to bid them farewell once they returned to the train station), the famed Mizpah Arch was added in 1909. Made with 70 tons of steel, the arch had more than 2,000 light bulbs, with “Welcome” spelled out on the side facing Union Station and “Mizpah” (which loosely means “May God watch over you” in Hebrew) on the side facing 17th Street. But, by the height of train travel in the 1920s and 1930s, more than 80 trains came through the station daily and the arch was removed in 1931.

By the 2000s, one passenger train passed through each day and the only other traffic the station saw was occasional seasonal trains, like the Ski Train and now-defunct Cheyenne Frontier Days Train. RTD, in partnership with the City and County of Denver and the State of Colorado, purchased the station and the surrounding 19 acres in 2001. The Fast Tracks project began in 2009, adding new lines and miles of track to take people all over the Denver metro. After which, the iconic Denver Union Station began a \$54 million renovation in 2012, adding additional restaurant spaces and the 112-room Crawford Hotel.

The space has now undergone another refresh, including extensive updates to the soaring Great Hall and the intimate Cooper Lounge. With updates completed in

fall 2024, the Great Hall was reconfigured from a vast room to smaller, intentional spaces designed with conversation in mind. The Crawford Hotel, recently honored with a Michelin Guide One Key, underwent a full room refresh inspired by the golden age of train travel, including arched doorways that were added to honor the Mizpah Arch. One super fun bespoke add-on: Rooms now include alarm clocks that are programmed with custom bedtime stories (with options for adults and for children) that celebrate Dana Crawford, the hotel’s namesake and her legacy as a trailblazing leader of downtown Denver.

Denver Union Station continues to welcome more than 10,000 people each day. Plus, the two Amtrak passenger trains that continue to pass through and 70+ RTD trains that run nearby daily. See the updated space at one of a dozen free community events each year, including the upcoming Colorado Rockies Opening Day celebration, or on Historic Denver’s LoDo Walking Tour, which is offered multiple times per week and starts and ends at the flagpole outside.





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Denver, CO 80203



Daria Castiglione

Castle Lion Development, LLC  
Historic Preservationist • General Contractor • Certified Passive House Tradesperson



# MOLLY BROWN

## HOUSE MUSEUM

### LESSONS FROM COLLABORATIVE COHORTS INCREASE MUSEUM’S EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

by Alison Salutz, Director of Education & Community Impact

Beginning last year, Historic Denver’s education team was selected for three different cohorts, where we are lucky enough to participate in working groups with other museums and institutions across the U.S. From April through October 2024, we joined Fostering Historical Curiosity Through Play. In 2025, we are participating in two other national cohorts: Museums for All and Museum Social Impact in Practice.

The Fostering Play program is a museum pedagogy that encourages incorporating five values into creating exhibits for young learners: meaningful, joyful, socially interactive, actively engaging, and iterative. The museum has already made all rooms more inviting and accessible by removing the traditional red ropes and inviting our guests to more fully enter the rooms. On the first floor, a series of exhibitions, museum guides, and well-positioned furniture help guests explore the rooms while maintaining the safety of the objects on display. As an institution, we are now bringing this interpretive approach to the second floor.

The bedrooms of Margaret Brown’s home had been attributed to specific family members, despite not having clear indications that those family members in the early museum years, actually used those rooms. Using the Fostering Play framework, we began to develop a concept for the front bedroom to engage our multi-generational audiences. Starting with the front bedroom, historically referred to as Helen’s room, we will use the concepts of Fostering Play to acknowledge Margaret’s children — and their lives and lived experiences — while comparing them to sets of siblings from different cultures and classes.

Larry and Helen Brown attended prestigious schools, traveled extensively, and were given many opportunities afforded by their father’s mineral findings. The experiences of Jamila and Ilyās Yarid, Lebanese Christian refugees, are quite a contrast: This brother and sister boarded Titanic alone to make their journey to America, because their father took ill just as the ship was getting ready to leave. They survived the sinking of the ship and arrived in New York via the Carpathia, same as Margaret Brown. The third family the exhibition will discuss is the Verna family, Italian immigrants and labor organizers who moved their family of six to Ludlow to help organize union efforts there. Miners lived in company owned housing, so, when they went on strike, they had to move out of their housing into hastily made structures, often tents.

By comparing the lives of the Brown children to two other sets of siblings, we can look at why people move and what they bring with them. Both migration and identity are key curriculum standards for the school-aged children who typically visit the museum, especially 3rd and 4th grade students. Gearing the exhibit toward this curriculum will allow us to build a program that serves family audiences, while being immediately applicable to our school tours and programs. Despite living during the same timeframe, the lives of these three sets of siblings are vastly different from one another. The items the children would have brought from place to place as they moved homes or traveled would have varied greatly, demonstrating the difference in their living conditions. For example, Lena and Tulio Verna would have had fewer belongings, as their family moved frequently from mine to mine, and, depending on labor strikes, in and out of mine-owned housing. But the choices of why each child brought certain things would likely be similar, connecting each set of siblings to their culture, their family, and their individual personalities.

The updated bedroom exhibit will give families who visit the museum today the opportunity to learn about the three sets of siblings, and encourage guests to engage in similar conversations about what their own family would pack to move or travel. We will also display historic artifacts that are tied to the stories of each sibling set. Through an interactive game, the exhibit will help families connect the experience to their own lives. Participants will collect tokens to complete a gameboard of packed items related to either the Browns, the Yarids, or the Vernas. Several prompts will help younger learners and their adults have meaningful conversations about whether those choices are similar to or different than ones they might make themselves. The element of chance in the game, which determines when you will collect which tokens, allows for several rounds of play that could all have different outcomes.

The development of this exhibit is currently in the prototype phase. We have tested the game element with several families participating in our Homeschool Day program and have incorporated their feedback into the model. We will continue testing iterations over the next several months, to take advantage of our busy summer season. We hope our guests will enjoy this unique opportunity to further explore the home’s bedrooms and to explore concepts tied to migration and identity.

The two cohorts we joined in 2025 include other museums looking to increase their capacity for evaluation, as well as collecting data that can be compared across



Applying our newfound knowledge from a recent cohort, a game and exhibit designed by the education team for families will launch in early summer.

museums on different topics, different sizes, and different geographical regions.

Museums for All, an initiative of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is an evaluation tool that has engaged with over 1,200 museums across the U.S. By using surveys to evaluate barriers to access, we can compare audiences who receive food assistance (SNAP benefits) and those who do not. Designed to address the fact that museum admission fees can be a barrier to attendance, and to encourage everyone to visit museums, visitors using the Museums for All program receive discounted admission to museums across the country. The evaluations we receive from those visitors helps us to collect feedback on their visit to the Molly Brown House Museum so we can continue to make the museum a welcoming and accessible space. We have committed to collecting 50 surveys through this program and are already nearing our goal.

Museum Social Impact in Practice is the second evaluation cohort that we are participating in this year. Administered by the American Alliance of Museums, this survey tool asks participants to visit the museum three times within the calendar year. Following the third visit, participants receive a survey which asks them about their feelings before, during, and after their visits. Visits for the participant and a guest are free of charge. This particular survey looks at the challenge of trying to understand and articulate the value museums provide to society — a challenge museums of all sizes and types share. According to the American Alliance of Museums, “MSIIP cohort museums will learn how to effectively leverage social impact data that helps make the case for museums to various stakeholders and funders. The long-term goal of this initiative is to enhance the entire museum field’s ability to use social impact data to advance their institutions through advocacy and build stronger, more informed relationships with their local community, funders, and stakeholders.” We are delighted to be one of the 40 museums who were selected to participate through a competitive application process.

We are currently in the recruiting phase of this project, as we are looking to have 100 participants complete three visits and fill out the survey. For our Denver-area readers, this is a wonderful opportunity to help the museum, plus get to visit three times this year. To see if you meet the criteria for participation, scan the QR code in the ad next to this article. ■



#### WANT TO HELP THE MUSEUM IMPROVE?

We need 100 people for the Museum Social Impact in Practice survey tool. Participants attend the museum three times as part of the program. Scan this code to see if you qualify to participate.

Don’t meet the program criteria? Help us by spreading the word to reach those who do!





The former Thomas Grocery building is now residential lofts. Photo: Discover Denver Survey

## SPOTLIGHT ON JEFFERSON PARK

by Beth Glandon, Director of Research & Engagement

Jefferson Park is one of Denver’s oldest neighborhoods. It takes its name from the large five-acre park — a former city dump — located at the southwest corner of West 23rd Avenue and Clay Street in the heart of the neighborhood. Jefferson Park includes parts of the original Congressional Grant of 1864, which established Denver’s first city limits, and the Town of Highlands, founded in 1871 and incorporated in 1875. The Town of Highlands was annexed by Denver in 1896. Jefferson Park is part of a larger area that was commonly known as “North Denver” after the annexation of the Town of Highlands. One of the earliest streetcar lines in Denver, built in 1872, ran along Emerald Avenue (today’s West 25th Avenue), connecting the suburb to Denver’s business district.

The Discover Denver citywide building survey, a partnership between Historic Denver and the City and County of Denver, is focused on identifying the buildings and areas of the city that are historically, architecturally, or culturally significant. Community volunteers surveyed Jefferson Park in 2015 and researched the history of 86 individual buildings in the neighborhood. Discover Denver’s work in Jefferson Park helped establish the River Drive Historic District, designated in 2019. Following are brief histories of several of the Jefferson Park buildings whose stories were uncovered by Discover Denver volunteers and Historic Denver staff.



### THOMAS GROCERY

The Thomas Grocery building, built about 1886, sits at the corner of West 26th Avenue and Decatur Street. Daniel and Annie Thomas were married the same year they opened their business. The couple lived above the grocery along with their sons Daniel and Frank. In 1906, Daniel Thomas constructed a duplex just to the south of the grocery; both buildings remain today.

After Annie’s death in 1922, Daniel deeded interest in the family properties to his sons, and in 1930, Frank gained sole ownership of the properties. By that time, Frank had taken control of the grocery and changed its name to the “Frank C. Thomas Grocery.” The elder Daniel Thomas died in 1935. Frank continued to operate the grocery from this location until 1968. Today it is a private residence and faces the preschool playground of the CEC Early Learning Academy.



### ONOFRIO RESIDENCE

This Edwardian style home on West 24th Avenue was built in 1909 for piano salesman Angelo F. “Filippo” Onofrio, whose Denver Post obituary described him as “one of Denver’s wealthiest Italians and one of the most widely known music dealers in the west.” Onofrio came to the United States from Italy in 1888 at the age of 14, first settling in Chicago where he learned the piano trade and met and married his wife, Maria Rosa. By 1900 the couple was in Denver, living in a rented house with their small

children. That same year, Onofrio purchased four parcels of land along West 24th Avenue in Jefferson Park, one of which already included a small terrace residence. The family lived in the terrace until 1909 when this much larger home was completed.

Early on, Onofrio was employed as a piano polisher with the Knight-Campbell Music Company, and later with the McKannon Piano Company. He later went into business for himself, and had a store at 15th and Welton streets in downtown Denver. Filippo and his son Joseph travelled throughout the region tuning and selling pianos, becoming quite successful.

In 1912, a large brick barn was constructed behind the house. The 1930 Sanborn Fire Insurance map shows that the footprint of the barn is nearly equal to that of the residence. Advertisements in early Denver newspapers list pianos for sale at the home’s address; it is likely that the barn was used to store the instruments. In 1917, a brick bungalow was built on the easternmost portion of Onofrio’s land. Daughter Esther and her new husband Rudolph Mapelli lived in the house. Rudolph, like his father-in-law, was in the business of selling pianos.

After Filippo died in 1928, son Joseph continued the family business, later renaming it the Joe Onofrio Music Company. The Onofrio family stayed in the piano business until 2012 when the Joe Onofrio Music Company was sold to Classic Pianos. The house stayed in the Onofrio family until 1984.

### FELICITO FRAZZINI RESIDENCE

Brothers Felicito (“Felix”), Cesare, and Prospero Frazzini immigrated to the United States in the 1880s and settled in Denver by the mid-1890s. In the early twentieth century, the brothers built a small business empire that extended outside of Colorado to nearby states.

Prospero owned a saloon at what is today 15th Street and Little Raven in downtown Denver, in a building that still stands today. Cesare and Felix initially worked for Prospero, but soon became part of the business. The “Frazzini Bros.” firm, headed by Prospero, branched out into grocery and wholesale liquor sales. By 1906, Frazzini Bros. had operations in Denver, Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming.

In 1904, the brothers founded the Italian-American Bank in the former saloon building. Many early immigrants had difficulty opening accounts or getting loans from established banks, and local saloons and grocery stores often filled this need. It is likely





that the formation of the Italian-American Bank was a legitimization of this informal banking arrangement already taking place across the city. Prospero was president of the Italian-American Bank, with Cesare and Felix serving as vice presidents and cashiers.

With their success, Felix and Cesare Frazzini built new homes in the Jefferson Park neighborhood. Both homes were built by Louis Spallone, a prominent building contractor and fellow Italian immigrant. Spallone built many homes in North Denver, largely for members of the Italian-American community. Spallone pulled building permits for both Frazzini homes, located just a few blocks away from each other, on the same day in 1912. Felix Frazzini’s two-story Foursquare house still stands at the corner of W. 26th Avenue and Clay Street, while Cesare’s Craftsman bungalow is located at W. 27th Avenue and Bryant.

Prior to 1925, the brothers’ bank made an investment in the International Fuel Corporation, which subsequently went bankrupt. The brothers mortgaged their homes in an effort to save the bank, but it was not enough. The bank closed, and Prospero was arrested. At his sentencing, Prospero explained, “All I did that was wrong I did in an effort to save the bank.” Prospero died in prison in 1926. Cesare opened a candy store after the bank failed. He died in 1929. Felix worked as a tailor for a while, and died in 1937.



**ELKS LODGE/COLORADO GRANGE BUILDING**

The Colorado State Grange headquarters, built in 1956 at West 26th Avenue and Alcott Street, housed the organization’s offices and an auditorium seating 800. The Grange Building was the site of conventions and numerous events, including exhibits, dances, meetings, and socials. Originally called the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, the Colorado Grange was established in 1874. The Grange is a fraternal organization focused on uniting and organizing farmers and creating united rural communities. Grange participation in Colorado reached its height in the 1940s and 1950s and declined sharply by the 1970s.

Current owner Denver Elks Lodge #17, known as the “Mother Lodge of the Rockies,” acquired the property in 1973. The Elks moved to this location from their original building on 17th Street in downtown Denver, bringing along many of the original stained glass and chandeliers. The Jolly Corks Bar, which boasts an incredible view of the downtown Denver skyline, is open to members and the public alike. ■

## VOLUNTEER!

Community volunteers are key to the success of the project and we seek both surveyors as well as volunteers to assist with research. Visit [discoverdenver.co](https://discoverdenver.co) for more information and to find out how you can get involved!



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Dana Crawford talks to Lewis Story, then-Associate Director of the Denver Art Museum at an art show at the Denver Art Museum in 1973. Photo: Denver Public Library Special Collections, Z-11857

IN MEMORIAM:  
DANA CRAWFORD

by John Deffenbaugh, President and CEO, and  
Jay Homstad, Director of Preservation Advocacy and Membership

Historic Denver mourns the loss of Dana Crawford, a founder of our organization and a trailblazer whose transformative vision shaped the landscape of historic preservation in Denver. Dana’s unmatched determination, business acumen, and creative vision have left an enduring legacy that will continue to inspire those seeking to integrate the buildings of the past into the modern world for generations to come.

Dana’s work began in the 1960s with her visionary efforts to redevelop Larimer Square. At a time when urban renewal often meant destruction, she recognized the untapped potential of Denver’s earliest commercial district. Her restoration of Larimer Square as a vibrant gathering place set a national precedent for preservation-based revitalization and demonstrated the economic and cultural benefits of honoring history while embracing progress.

Over her remarkable career, Dana redeveloped more than 800,000 square feet of historic properties in Denver, including the Oxford Hotel, Acme Lofts, Flour Mill Lofts, Edbrooke Lofts, and Cooper Flats Condominiums. Her transformative efforts culminated in the hugely successful rehabilitation of Denver Union Station, where The Crawford Hotel now stands as a testament to her extraordinary impact.

Dana’s influence reached far beyond the city she called home. She served on the board of the National Trust for Historic Preservation for nine years, six of which she spent on the executive committee. In 1995, she was awarded the Louise duPont Crowninshield Award, the National Trust’s highest honor. She also contributed nationally as president



In 2014, Historic Denver presented Dana Crawford with the Keystone Award to celebrate and honor her preservation work in Denver. Photo: Historic Denver file photo

of Preservation Action and as a board member of the Project for Public Spaces.

In 2014, Historic Denver was honored to recognize Dana’s lifetime of contributions to preservation, including her pivotal role in preserving the Molly Brown House Museum, by awarding her the Keystone Award. Dana’s work truly embodies the spirit of this award — her projects and advocacy remind us that historic preservation is not just about saving buildings but about saving them with people and communities in mind, honoring the past while looking to the future.

Dana Crawford was more than a preservationist; she was a force of nature who helped shape Denver into the city it is today. Her ability to see beauty and possibility in places others

overlooked has inspired generations of preservationists and redefined the role historic places play in our lives.

We extend our deepest condolences to Dana’s family and all who were fortunate to know her. Historic Denver, in partnership with our community, will honor Dana’s legacy by continuing to connect the past to the present and future. Together, we will champion an informed and holistic approach to preserving the places and stories that matter most, ensuring that her vision shapes the evolution of the city we love. ■

IN MEMORIAM:  
JOYCE WHITNEY

Molly Brown House Museum and Historic Denver staff remember our late volunteer Joyce Whitney, who passed away over the 2024 December holidays. She will be missed in every aspect of museum engagement at the Molly Brown House Museum. Since 2016, Joyce has been a lively and passionate volunteer who wanted the museum and its programs to be the best they could be. Her passing is a loss not only to us but to all who knew her.



Joyce Whitney and Volunteer & Event Manager Mike Erickson pictured when they took Margaret Brown to the movies for a special event in downtown Denver. Photo: Courtesy Mike Erickson

From serving students to our after-hours event guests, Joyce was an engaging member of our team who wanted Margaret Brown’s story and Denver’s history to be shared with as many as possible! Joyce brought her talents from her teaching career focusing on middle school and high school mathematics to the museum. While this contrasted her interest in history, she always found a way to connect her math knowledge with history for museum guests. Her hands-on teaching philosophy was an asset to her help with programs and events — Joyce was always one of the most engaging and active volunteers at every event.

As we move deeper into 2025, it saddens us deeply to think that Joyce will not be with us for our upcoming programs and events. We could always expect Joyce to be at many (if not most) of the museum-held events and a number of them were even put on the calendar because of Joyce’s excitement and passion for the Molly Brown House Museum. Joyce, thank you for everything you gave to the museum and for connecting with so many visitors. We all miss you dearly. ■

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| Patricia Aozasa            | David Hill                 | George Potts             |
| Mary Beth Armbruster       | Jon Hindlemann             | Jane Potts               |
| Darrell Arndt              | William Hoebel & Jessica   | Laurie Ramos             |
| Carolyn Badalucco          | Abegg                      | Heidi & Matt Rees        |
| Mark Barnhouse             | Scott Holder               | Barbara Ridgway          |
| Jayne Baumgartner          | Jay B. Homstad             | Brian Rivera             |
| Carla & Nathan Beal        | James Hunt                 | Charlotte Rocha          |
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| Grant Bennett              | Peggy & Harold Kamins      | Martha Rooney Saitta     |
| Kay Berenbaum              | Beth Karpowich             | Deborah and Ralph Round  |
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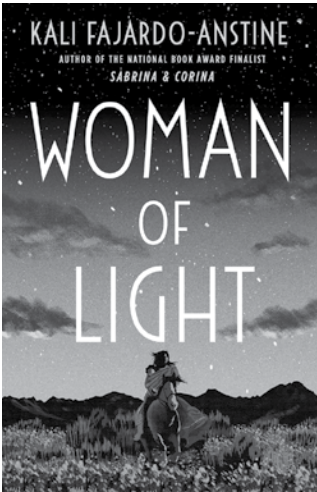
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EVENTS

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COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB -  
WOMAN OF LIGHT

Sunday, April 6 ♦ 12:30-2 p.m. ♦ Virtual or in person at Center for Colorado Women's History Free

Join the Molly Brown House Museum and the Center for Colorado Women's History, as we read and discuss books related to women's history, Colorado history, and books by women authors from Colorado. Let's read!

This month's book is *Woman of Light* by Kali Fajardo-Anstine. A dazzling epic of betrayal, love, and fate that spans five generations of an Indigenous Chicano family in the American West.

TITANIC TEA

Saturday, April 12 ♦ 10:20 a.m. and 1:20 p.m. ♦ Molly Brown House Museum ♦ \$45 Member, \$50 Non-member

Margaret "Molly" Brown was unsinkable in more ways than staying afloat in the Titanic disaster in 1912. Learn about her life by exploring the historic home then enjoy a high tea with fruit, scones, tea sandwiches, desserts, and Margaret's favorite blend of tea.

HOMESCHOOL DAY:  
BUILDING THE TITANIC

Monday, April 14 and April 21 ♦ 9:30am-11:30am ♦ Molly Brown House Museum ♦ \$14/Student, \$5 Adult, Non-participating Siblings Free

Explore the fascinating story of how the Titanic was built! Through interactive activities, students will learn about the ship's design and construction, discover the technology of the era, and uncover the lives of the workers who made the RMS Titanic a reality.

1340 PENN AFTER HOURS:  
TRANSATLANTIC TITANIC TRIVIA!

Thursday, April 17 ♦ 6:30 p.m. Molly Brown House Museum \$25 Member ♦ \$30 Non-member

Are you a Titanic trivia pro? Come test your knowledge at our second 1340 Penn After Hours event where we will test your knowledge of Titanic history and pop culture through trivia and other activities in the historic home of Titanic survivor, Margaret "Molly" Brown! Signature Cocktail (21+) or Mocktail provided with ticket.

HISTORIC DENVER REALTOR SEMINAR

Wednesday, April 23 ♦ 12-4:30 p.m. ♦ Virtual \$55 Member, \$70 Non-Member

This popular three-credit continuing education course is offered to real estate agents twice a year and covers 150 years of Denver architecture, an exploration of the various types of historic protections, maintenance pointers for homeowners, and sales tips. This session will be offered to brokers again on Wednesday, December 3.

LEARN AT MRS. BROWNS:  
DERBY HAT WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 26 ♦ 1 p.m. Molly Brown House Museum ♦ \$40 Member, \$50 Non- member

With the 151st Kentucky Derby coming up we are hosting a hat-making workshop! We will look at some of the ways Margaret Brown enjoyed hats and get a glimpse of hats of Kentucky Derby past. Instruction and supplies are included with the ticket.



VICTORIAN GARDEN TEA

Saturday, May 10 ♦ 10:20 a.m. and 1:20 p.m. Molly Brown House Museum ♦ \$45 Member, \$50 Non-member

Spring is here and let's celebrate with tea at the Molly Brown House Museum. Explore the historic home then enjoy a high tea with fruit, scones, tea sandwiches, desserts, and Margaret's favorite blend of tea.

LOVE OLD BUILDINGS EXPO

Saturday, May 10 ♦ 12-4 pm El Jebel Shrine, 1770 Sherman St. \$10 Member, \$15 Non-member

Join us for a series of workshops that will help you feel knowledgeable about your historic homes, offices, or older commercial properties. We'll cover popular topics like historic window repair, masonry, maintenance FAQs and more. If you live in, rent, or love an old building, join us for this informative workshop. We'll be hosting this year's sessions in the stunning Mosque of the El Jebel Shrine of the Mystic Order, including offering tours of the historic Moorish revival building throughout the afternoon!

HOMESCHOOL DAY:  
MASTERPIECES WITH MARGARET

Monday, May 12 ♦ 9:30am-11:30am Molly Brown House Museum \$14/Student, \$5 Adult, Non-participating Siblings Free

Discover Margaret Brown's passion for the arts and her support of local artists! Students will create art inspired by portraiture, decorative arts, landscape painting, and color theory, all while exploring Margaret Brown's remarkable legacy as a patron of the arts.

CURATOR WORKSHOP: PHOTOS AND ARCHIVES

Tuesday, May 13 ♦ 6 p.m. Molly Brown House Museum ♦ \$20 Member, \$25 Non-member

Preserved photographs, letters, and documents make up so much of the story we are able to tell at the Molly Brown House Museum. Join the curator, Stephanie McGuire, for a special program that looks into how we preserve these documents. Plus, she'll provide instruction on best practices to make sure your own personal collections are preserved!

COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB - WHERE THE  
WATER GOES

Sunday, June 1 ♦ 12:30-2 p.m. ♦ Virtual or in person at Molly Brown House Museum ♦ Free

Join the Molly Brown House Museum and the Center for Colorado Women's History, as we read and discuss books related to women's history, Colorado history, and books by women authors from Colorado. Let's read!

This month's book is *Where the Water Goes: Life and Death Along the Colorado River* by David Owen. The Colorado River is a crucial resource for a surprisingly large part of the United States, and every gallon that flows down it is owned or claimed by someone. David Owen traces all that water from the Colorado's headwaters to its parched terminus, once a verdant wetland but now a million-acre desert. He takes readers on an adventure downriver, along a labyrinth of waterways, reservoirs, power plants, farms, fracking sites, ghost towns, and RV parks, to the spot near the U.S.-Mexico border where the river runs dry.

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE  
CURATOR: EXHIBITING TITANIC

Tuesday, June 10 ♦ 6 p.m. Molly Brown House Museum ♦ \$10 Member, \$15 Non-member

Ever wonder how Titanic exhibits are made? Join our curator on a behind-the-scenes look at creating our latest Titanic exhibit See *Justice Done: The Titanic Survivors' Committee*. Our curator will discuss her deep dives into the archives and the artifacts she brought from across the country to explore Margaret's involvement in the Titanic Survivors' Committee. We will also explore the mystery of a historic flag that has joined the museum's collections.

1340 PENN AFTER HOURS  
ART ON PENN: FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

Thursday, June 19 ♦ 6:30 p.m. Molly Brown House Museum \$25 Member, \$30 Non-member



1340 Penn After Hours is getting artsy in June! Flowers have retained their popularity through centuries. Join us as we talk about the flowers popular in Margaret's time and let's create a flower arrangement of our own. Signature Cocktail (21+) or Mocktail provided with ticket!

CURATOR WORKSHOP: TEXTILES AND OBJECTS

Tuesday, July 8 ♦ 6 p.m. Molly Brown House Museum \$20 Member, \$25 Non-member

You've seen the period artifacts set the atmosphere of Margaret Brown's restored historic home. Storing, cleaning, and preserving one-of-a-kind objects is no small feat! Join curator Stephanie McGuire for a special program that shows how we preserve these objects as well as some instruction and best practices to make sure your personal collections are preserved!

IN HER WORDS LECTURE

Friday, July 18 ♦ 6 p.m. Molly Brown House Museum \$15 Member, \$20 Non-member

Join museum director Andrea Malcomb and curator Stephanie McGuire for a special lecture that celebrates Margaret's life (and birthday!) through quotes.

UPCOMING SPECIALTY TOURS

Our specialty tours dive into the past of Denver's neighborhoods. The schedule continues to evolve throughout the season, so please visit [historicdenver.org](http://historicdenver.org) for the full schedule and to get tickets.

BAKER NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING  
TOUR

April 4, May 3, June 14 ♦ \$20 Member, \$25 Non-member

What is now the Historic Baker District witnessed its beginnings in 1872 and boasts the highest concentration of Queen Anne Victorian homes in the city's historic center. The neighborhood's rich history, people, and architecture are all showcased on this engaging walking tour!

CURTIS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD  
WALKING TOUR

April 19, May 10, June 28, July 12 ♦ \$20 Member, \$25 Non-member

Walk through the variety of homes and businesses that make up Denver's first streetcar suburb. We will begin the tour at Curtis-Mestizo Park then walk to Ideal Laundry, Puritan Pie Company, the Patrick Ford home — potentially the oldest in the city — and more!

17TH STREET TOUR

Every other Thursday ♦ May through October \$20 Member, \$25 Non-member  
Denver's built environment today is the result of a roller coaster economy, with many booms and busts over the past 160 years. Explore the "Wall Street of the West," visiting favorite stops like The Brown Palace Hotel, the Equitable Building, former Colorado National Bank, and exploring the architecture of our skyscrapers. We'll see historic buildings built by Denver's first successful settlers adjacent to glamorous modern buildings, and we'll learn how Denver's earliest entrepreneurs developed Denver as a financial center and a supply center for the inland western US and Rocky Mountain region.

POTTER HIGHLANDS WALKING TOUR

Every other Saturday ♦ May through October \$20 Member, \$25 Non-member  
Explore the mansions, bungalows, cottages and foursquares of one of the oldest parts of Denver. The Town of Highlands was promoted as having clean air, clean water, and high morals. On the hill above Denver's smog of coal smoke, it featured artesian wells and there were no saloons in Highlands until after Prohibition. Today, the neighborhood retains some of the oldest residences in Denver.

PRIVATE SPACES:  
QUEER CAPITOL HILL WALKING TOUR

Select Saturdays and Wednesdays May through September ♦ \$20 Member, \$25 Non-member

How did laws keep queer Denver heavily policed and segregated? The tour explores how Cap Hill spaces, including the Molly Brown House Museum, were refuges and connectors for LGBTQ people, such as the first home of the Gay Coalition of Denver, apartments for Denver Area Mattachine Society, and the first headquarters for the Gay Community Center of Colorado.

If you plan to take this tour to celebrate Pride Month, book as soon as you can — June tours will sell out!