



A New Kind of History Center

With the construction of the new History Colorado Center, due to open in 2012, History Colorado is undergoing a transformation into the kind of institution that better fulfills today's audience, tourism, and state educational needs.

"This is an exciting time of opportunity and change for this 130-year-old institution," said Edward C. Nichols, History Colorado President and CEO. "And in the current recession, the very construction of the History Colorado Center fills a need by employing vendors and contractors in the construction and creative industries." A visit to the construction site at 12th Avenue between Broadway and Lincoln in Denver shows that the Center is well on its way into being.

And as instruction time for social studies continues to diminish in our classrooms, adds Chief Operating Officer Kathryn Hill, the opening of a new kind of history center will ensure that Colorado students have opportunities to learn about their state's rich history in ways that can help them understand the present in the context of the past and prepare them to become engaged citizens of their state. "With all new exhibitions and programs in the planning phase," says Hill, "we're positioning the History Colorado Center to serve as a community gathering space for civic dialogue and current events, as well as a prime destination for visitors of all ages, families, students, and tourists."

To stay on top of news about the Center's construction—as well as History Colorado's ongoing programs and events—remember to sign up for the *History Colorado Now* e-newsletter at www.historycolorado.org



In 2006, an Urban Land Institute study concluded that both buildings on the 1300 block of Broadway were fundamentally flawed, outdated and did not effectively serve their respective audiences. In 2008, funding for the construction of the History Colorado Center and the Ralph L. Carr Justice Complex through Certificates of Participation Build America Bonds (COP BABS), which do not draw from state general funds, was passed through legislation. The COP BABS are paid for through a marginal increase in court fees as well as a small percentage of gaming tax revenues derived from Central City, Black Hawk, and Cripple Creek.