

Building a Stronger Colorado

History Colorado has celebrated a building milestone: construction of the History Colorado Center is complete. Just a year after its “topping out” (the placing of the final beam) and two years after its groundbreaking, this dynamic center is on schedule and on budget.

Construction of the \$110.8 million, 200,000-square-foot State facility created more than 700 jobs and millions of dollars in economic development. It tapped local talent and will open to the public next spring as a twenty-first-century museum, educational hub, and tourist destination.

“We could not have accomplished such a dynamic public project of this level without the support and dedication of Governor Hickenlooper’s and Ritter’s administrations, or without the expertise, dedication, and passion of our building team—Tryba Architects, Trammell Crow, and Hensel Phelps,” said History Colorado President and CEO Ed Nichols. “Now that the building is complete, we turn our attention to transforming the inside



History Colorado Chief Operating Officer Kathryn Hill and President Ed Nichols lead a tour of the History Colorado Center. At center is History Colorado Chairman W. Bart Berger.

with new exhibitions and educational spaces. Once open to the public, the History Colorado Center will become alive as a thought-provoking center for civic conversation and an inspirational journey into the past for visitors of all ages.”



Former Governor Bill Ritter addresses the crowd gathered at the new History Colorado Center. From left are Governor John W. Hickenlooper; Lieutenant Governor Joe Garcia; David Tryba, Principal at Tryba Architects; Bill Mosher, Principal and Area Director for project manager Trammell Crow Company; Jerry Morgensen, Chairman Emeritus at Hensel Phelps Construction Co.; and Ed Nichols, President and CEO of History Colorado.

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The History Colorado Center serves as headquarters for History Colorado administration, including the State Historical Fund, the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and the Stephen H. Hart Library. Administrative offices are now open for appointment-only business. Over the next several months, staff will move 1,000 pallets of museum collections from a storage facility into a highly efficient, climate-controlled space at the History Colorado Center. Build-out of all-new, highly interactive exhibitions, educational spaces, a restaurant, a museum store, and other public spaces is under way.

“The entire team associated with this project has met or exceeded expectations,” said building project manager Bill Mosher of Trammell Crow Company. “We built a durable and sustainable project that will serve generations of people interested in learning about Colorado’s great past and exciting future. We are honored to have had a role in this project.”

Principal architect David Tryba of Denver firm Tryba Architects noted that museums are “community anchor institutions,” among the most trusted institutions in our country. “They are critical to the quality of life in our communities. As core community institutions, they have a unique opportunity to fulfill a diverse range of needs. The History Colorado Center will provide just that kind of anchor,” he said.

Jerry L. Morgensen, chairman emeritus of Hensel Phelps Construction, explained that the History Colorado Center project has allowed Hensel Phelps to deliver on its commitment to creating construction opportunities for Colorado’s workforce and small businesses. Companies with local offices performed more than 90 percent of the work. “We are proud of the quality and craftsmanship delivered by the construction workers from Colorado,” he said.

On October 7, an inscribed block of granite-covered limestone installed on the building’s Broadway-facing



exterior honoring Governor John W. Hickenlooper, former Governor Bill Ritter, and the 2008 Legislative Assembly was unveiled by the two governors, with Lt. Governor Joe Garcia and other dignitaries in attendance.

At the event, Governor Hickenlooper acknowledged the outstanding team that was assembled to build the History Colorado Center. “This is a building that all Coloradans can be proud of,” he said.

Ritter noted that the reason we have a history museum is to honor where we came from. “The fact that this is going to last is a testament to our commitment—not just to the people here or the kids who are in grade school today—but to the generations to come, that we believe in them, that we believe in their future,” he added. “To all the people who have been involved, you have done us so proud as Coloradans, that you built this building, that you built it with such dignity, and with such grace, and with such a lasting presence.”

“What makes Colorado special is the people and the events that created the Colorado we live in today,” said Lt. Governor Joe Garcia, who also serves as Executive Director of Higher Education. “And, it’s important that our young people and our adults get an understanding of those people and those events. If we want to have engaged and informed citizens, we need institutions and facilities like this. This building will create better citizens, and by doing so it will build a stronger Colorado.”