



## History Colorado Center – Brief History

- The Colorado Historical Society and the state Judicial Department occupy two separate buildings on the same city block. In 2005, in light of research from the Urban Land Institute that concluded that new buildings were necessary and that the Judicial Department building should occupy the entire block, the Colorado Historical Society agreed to find a new site to allow the Judicial Department to use the block.
- In February 2008, the State of Colorado entered into a memorandum of understanding with Principal Real Estate Investors of Des Moines, Ia., to relocate the Colorado Historical Society one block south of its current 13<sup>th</sup> and Broadway location.
- Tryba Architects is the architect-of-record. TrammellCrow Company is the project manager. Hensel Phelps Construction Co. is the construction firm.
- Financing for a new History Colorado Center was approved through Senate Bill 08-206, which authorized the sale of Certificates of Participation and construction.
- House Bill 09-1346 was passed to allow Colorado to take advantage of specific financing mechanisms within the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
- Instead of two separate projects, the state approached the projects as one—an approach that saves over \$200 million dollars from the legislatively authorized debt service limitations and will create over 3,200 direct and indirect jobs over the course of the next four years. State Treasurer Cary Kennedy announced the successful financing on Wed., July 15. See <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/OIT-2/OIT2/1247751307456> for complete news release from State Treasury.

“We couldn’t be more pleased to be an actor, participant and recipient in the effort to stimulate the state’s economy,” said Edward C. Nichols, Colorado Historical Society President & CEO. “In the 1930s, the historical society was in a similar position when it employed artists and historians under the New Deal/Works Progress Administration. In the midst of the Great Depression, our historical society put people to work. Today, we find ourselves at a similar juncture.”

“The Urban Land Institute recommendation that we relocate in turn became an opportunity for needed change—change not only in public facilities, but in the way we approach historical museums and educational resources for the state to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century demands,” Nichols said. “We are highly focused on our public service mission—to schools and scholars, families and tourists, and to Coloradans throughout the state for whom our collections and programs must be compelling and accessible.”

### Events:

- **May 2009 – February 2010:** Deconstruction of museum exhibitions
- **July 23, 2009:** Historical Society and Judicial building project financing through COPs /Build America Bonds closes
- **August 1, 2009:** Colorado History Museum admission goes free
- **August 19, 2009:** Groundbreaking for new History Colorado Center at 12<sup>th</sup> & Broadway
- **October 2, 2009:** Opening of *Allen True's West*, the last new exhibition at the Colorado History Museum
- **October 31, 2009:** Stephen H. Hart Library closes
- **Spring 2010:** Colorado History Museum closes and Colorado Historical Society staff move to temporary quarters
- **Summer 2010:** Museum and Judicial Building torn down
- **2011:** History Colorado Center complete and exhibitions building begins

### Project History

#### 1991 – 2002

- Colorado Historical Society begins exploring major facility expansion and upgrades to its existing building in accordance with the Venturi Scott and Brown Civic Center Cultural Complex Plan.
- 2000: CHS conducts competitive search for an architect; Tryba Architects selected as architect-of-record.
- 2002: Museum facility expansion begins but halted due to rescinded capital construction funds.

#### 2005

- Urban Land Institute (ULI) study concludes that Judicial/Heritage Complex built in 1977, which houses the Colorado History Museum and the Colorado Judicial Branch, should be replaced.
- ULI recommends relocating museum to another area within the Civic Center/Golden Triangle Museum District in proximity to other cultural institutions and governmental and cultural center of the city.

#### 2006 – 2007

- TrammellCrow Company retained as the project manager for both building projects.
- Tryba Architects continues as architect-of-record for Colorado Historical Society.
- Colorado General Assembly approves a feasibility study to explore the construction of two new buildings.
- Eight potential sites, including three historic buildings, evaluated. Three considered most viable.
- Historical society and City of Denver begin public discussion regarding potential Civic Center Park site.

2008

- Colorado Historical Society board of directors vote to reject Civic Center site.
- Colorado Historical Society renews review of previously searched sites and identifies 12<sup>th</sup> and Broadway in Denver as its preferred location.
- Senate Bill 08-206 passes and is signed by the Governor in June.
- Building design by Tryba Architects begins.

2009

- House Bill 09-1346 passes allowing Colorado to take advantage of specific financing mechanisms within the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

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***Background***

*The Colorado Historical Society was established in 1879 and is headquartered at the Colorado History Museum in Denver. As the designated steward of Colorado history, the Colorado Historical Society aspires to engage people in our State's heritage through collecting, preserving, and discovering the past in order to educate and provide perspectives for the future. This educational institution contains History Colorado, the 12 museums and historic sites across the state, its public programs and services; the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, the Stephen H. Hart Research Library, and administers the State Historical Fund, a preservation-based grants program funded by limited stakes gaming tax revenues. For more information call (303) 866-3682 or visit [www.coloradohistory.org](http://www.coloradohistory.org).*

