



August 6, 2026

Dear Greeley City Council,

I write to you as a concerned state partner and supporter of the Greeley History Museums. I'm the Director of the Affiliate Network of History Colorado. I was thrilled when Greeley History Museums, one of the oldest museum groups in our state, joined this statewide Affiliate Network. Smaller museums across the state could now learn from the exemplary Greeley History Museums. Also, the Greeley History Museums gained access to funding opportunities beyond its city support, industry best practices and state promotions focused on driving visitors to Centennial Village and the GHM ([Affiliate Network Visit Map](#))

All levels of government and all American families are experiencing financial difficulties. While I empathize with the City of Greeley's difficult position, I also strongly encourage you to find different budget cuts. Greeley's history is the only organization collecting and sharing the valuable history of Weld County. Also it has recently been partnering and sharing stories of Latino communities. Culturally relevant local history has been shown to increase students attendance, GPAs, graduation rates* (citation below). The Greeley History Museums has been educating annually 10,000 students - the next generation of civically engaged youth - through its doorbusting attendance at History Fest with over 2000 students and another 5000 students coming to its in-classroom Museum to You program, and its in depth Hands On History camp partnership with History Colorado. Saved history reminds residents what they love about their community and recommits them to working toward its ever stronger future.

Museums with minimal staff, as proposed, are just dusty stuff filled attics. The museum staff are the people who understand and actively share your community histories through History Fest, Field Trips and dynamic changing exhibitions. The proposed cuts would bring GHM's staffing levels well below national and state standards for a museum of its considerable holdings. Cutting hours and forcing seasonal closures is particularly dangerous. From my perspective working with 100 Colorado museums, maintaining open hours year round is a benchmark. - critical that regular open hours don't sustainably change by season. are important visitation drivers and thus financial engines for the city's cultural community. Once your public encounters the cognitive obstacles of confusing seasonal closures, they forget about your museums as an education and or leisure option.

Just two years ago, Greeley and its Greeley History Museums proudly hosted over two hundred museum professionals from the Colorado and Wyoming Museum Association for their three day annual conference. I came up from Denver, I stayed at the conference hotel the DoubleTree by Hilton Greeley at Lincoln Park, I attended professional development sessions at the cutting edge Linc Library Innovation Center, I roamed around your streets snapping pictures of your considerable public art. I especially enjoyed the Greeley History Museum and, of course Rattlesnake Kate ([LH Podcast Greeley History](#)) and also an exhibition about Kodak's role in your town, which was an interesting surprise that I didn't know about.

It was obvious to me in 2024, how much care and investment Greeley was making for their residents and visitors. Don't turn back the clock, don't cut your memory keepers and community builders, the staff at Greeley History Museums.

Sincerely,

Shannon Voinol

Director of Affiliate Network
History Colorado

cc Chair of Museum Advisory Board, Marcus Embry,
President of our Friends of the Museum, Patti Harold
Museums Manager, Dr Chris Bowles

(Thomas S. Dee & Emily K. Penner, 2017. "The Causal Effects of Cultural Relevance," American Educational Research Journal, vol 54(1), pages 127-166. <https://www.nber.org/papers/w21865>)