



Annual Report | 2024

From Paleo-Indians to Pueblos

Imagine You Lived in Paleo-Indian Times - 16,000 to 8,000 Years Ago

You or your ancestors likely crossed the Bering Land Bridge from Siberia into the new world in the last Ice Age. Days came with you. You used some tools to hunt megafauna like mammoths, mastodons and giant bison. You moved often, gathering wild plants for food and medicine, and built no permanent homes.

This map represents scientific and genetic research regarding where indigenous peoples from Siberia crossed the Bering Land Bridge and along the Pacific Coast. Scientists continue to study other possible time frames and routes early people may have taken into the continent.

Illustration by Joyce Korman. Courtesy: Crow Canyon Archaeological Center



Imagine You Lived in Archaic Times - 8,000 to 2,500 Years Ago



With agriculture, new crops, new tools and new ideas, life began to change. People began to settle in one place, all depending on wild plants and game. The tools improved. People began to build permanent homes. The tools improved. People began to build permanent homes.

Imagine You Lived in Basketmaker Times - 2,500 to 1,300 Years Ago

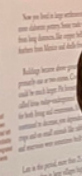
True Pueblo culture has begun. In addition to corn, which made up as much as 70% of your diet, you raised beans, squash and gourds. No longer nomads, you lived in shallow pit houses close to your fields, and wove baskets from plant materials for gathering and storing water and food, and even for cooking. You still hunted and gathered, especially when drought or cold affected crops. Toward the end of the period, you replaced adults with boys and women, domesticated wild turkey and learned making pottery. Trading with other groups increased.



Courtesy: Lauren Wheeler and the Ancestral Puebloan of Montezuma. Courtesy: Crow Canyon Archaeological Center



Imagine You Lived in Pueblo I-III Times - 1,300 to 750 Years Ago



Now you built a large adobe house and stored more clothing, pottery, food and water. You had long families. You began to build houses from stone and adobe. You began to build houses from stone and adobe.

Let's go back, now to 5,000 years ago. You were a hunter-gatherer. You were a hunter-gatherer. You were a hunter-gatherer.

Let's go back, now to 5,000 years ago. You were a hunter-gatherer. You were a hunter-gatherer. You were a hunter-gatherer.

Let's go back, now to 5,000 years ago. You were a hunter-gatherer. You were a hunter-gatherer. You were a hunter-gatherer.

Let's go back, now to 5,000 years ago. You were a hunter-gatherer. You were a hunter-gatherer. You were a hunter-gatherer.

Let's go back, now to 5,000 years ago. You were a hunter-gatherer. You were a hunter-gatherer. You were a hunter-gatherer.

Let's go back, now to 5,000 years ago. You were a hunter-gatherer. You were a hunter-gatherer. You were a hunter-gatherer.

Let's go back, now to 5,000 years ago. You were a hunter-gatherer. You were a hunter-gatherer. You were a hunter-gatherer.

Let's go back, now to 5,000 years ago. You were a hunter-gatherer. You were a hunter-gatherer. You were a hunter-gatherer.

Let's go back, now to 5,000 years ago. You were a hunter-gatherer. You were a hunter-gatherer. You were a hunter-gatherer.

Let's go back, now to 5,000 years ago. You were a hunter-gatherer. You were a hunter-gatherer. You were a hunter-gatherer.

Let's go back, now to 5,000 years ago. You were a hunter-gatherer. You were a hunter-gatherer. You were a hunter-gatherer.



From the Director

The Montezuma Heritage Museum is dedicated to saving our regional history and telling our local stories. This past year we had the opportunity to highlight many important stories - from 103-year-old, Vic Sundquist's adventures in the Southwest Colorado timber industry to those of our Ute Mountain Ute neighbors and partners, who know this place as their ancestral homeland. Behind the scenes, we took in new collections that will serve researchers, area students, and museum visitors into the future. This work is a labor of love and I am honored to have joined the team in 2024.

Elizabeth Quinn MacMillan, *Executive Director*

Mission

Our mission is to educate, enrich and inspire our residents and visitors through the preservation, presentation and interpretation of the county's and region's rich and diverse history.

Board of Trustees

Brian Bartlett, *President*
Tom Hayden, *Vice President*
Tulli Kerstetter, *Secretary*
Julie Paige, *Corresponding Secretary & Treasurer*
Dolly Gardner, *Historian*
DeEtta Johnson
Mike Lavey
Karen Sheek
Helen West

Volunteers

Judy Aeschlimann	Graham Johnson	Emmett MacMillan
Brian Bartlett	Tulli Kerstetter	Vince MacMillan
Kristen Corbitt	Joyce Lawrence	Karen Sheek
John Gilliat	Mike Lavey	Barbara Stagg
Tom Hayden	Julie Paige	Robert Valencia
Terri Helm	Tom & Sissy Pittenger	Helen West
DeEtta Johnson	Sandy Pyle	

Cover | Two students from Montezuma Cortez Middle School complete a scavenger hunt as part of a school visit.



Logger for Life

Life-long logger, **Victor “Jumbo” Sundquist** and his daughter **Anita Long**, shared his stories of life in the timber industry, including at McPhee.

100 Years of Silence Project Opening Reception

Ute Mountain Ute tribe elders, storytellers, musicians, and creative makers commemorated the resilience on the 101st anniversary of the so-called “1923 Posey War” while fostering unity, healing, and hope for the future.

Galloping on the Galloping Goose

Joe Becker shared the impactful history of the Galloping Goose and efforts to keep the Rio Grande Southern Railroad operating.



From Sagebrush to Sweet Corn

Rooted in Tribal culture and sustainability, the 7,700-acre Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Farm & Ranch Enterprise includes the Bow & Arrow Brand, LLC corn mill and a 700 cow/calf operation. General Manager, **Simon Martinez**, shared this tribally-owned business's unique story.



Colorado's Fruit Growing History

Jude Schuenemeyer of the Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project highlighted Southwest Colorado's early fruit growing history.



The museum completed two more long-term exhibits in 2024. **Timber!!!** shares the history of the timber industry in Southwest Colorado and **Ute Mountain Utes: We Are Still Here**, developed collaboratively with the tribe, tells the Weeminuche story.

Special thanks to **Barbara Stagg**, our exhibit developer, for all of her work!



Save Our History

Collections Care & Management

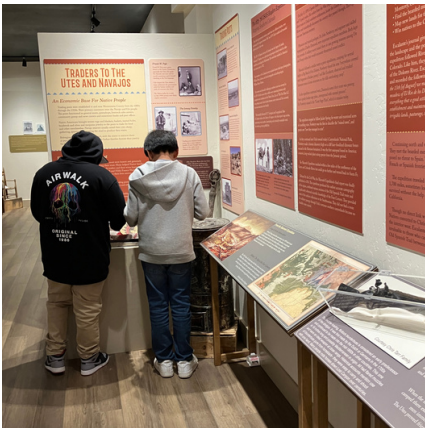
The museum continues to receive donations, which serve as the foundation of our work. Collections help us tell stories in exhibits, support research, and serve as learning tools for area students. The donation of a portrait of Ute Mountain Ute Chief Jack House by late Ute artist Stacy Lansing is just one highlight from this year's donations. Thank you so much to Frank and Cindy Green for their generosity.

Every donation that comes in requires care and management. Luckily our team of Joyce Lawrence and Tulli Kerstetter do a wonderful job! This year we also received a Greenwood Fund grant, which will help us to purchase archival supplies. Archival sleeves will help us care for our historic photos and quilt-sized boxes will facilitate long-term storage of our quilt and clothing collections.



Passing On Our Legacy

Educational Outreach



In 2024, the Montezuma Heritage Museum reached over 200 area students through school visits, youth group tours, and more. Students, ranging from 4th through 7th grade, took part in guided tours, completed special activities, and learned more about many topics using the museum's exhibitions.

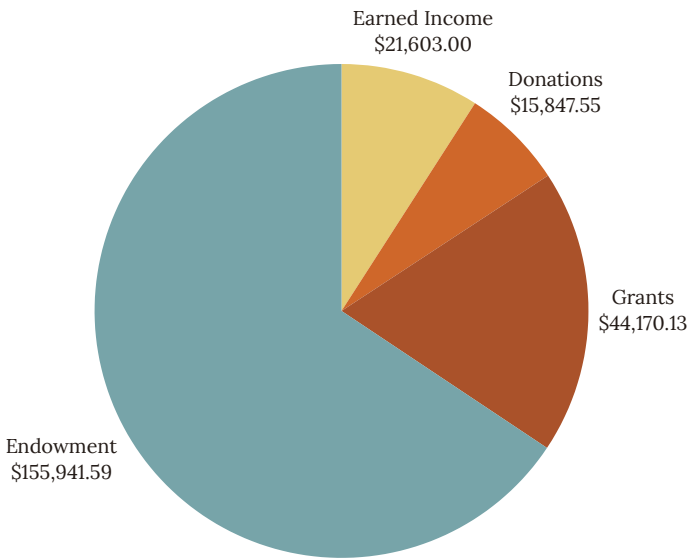
The museum updated its website to highlight learning opportunities and reviewed and upgraded field trip offerings, specialized educational activities, and outreach materials.

Special thanks to Judy Aeschlimann, Terri Helm, Tom Hayden, Robert Valencia for donating their time and expertise.

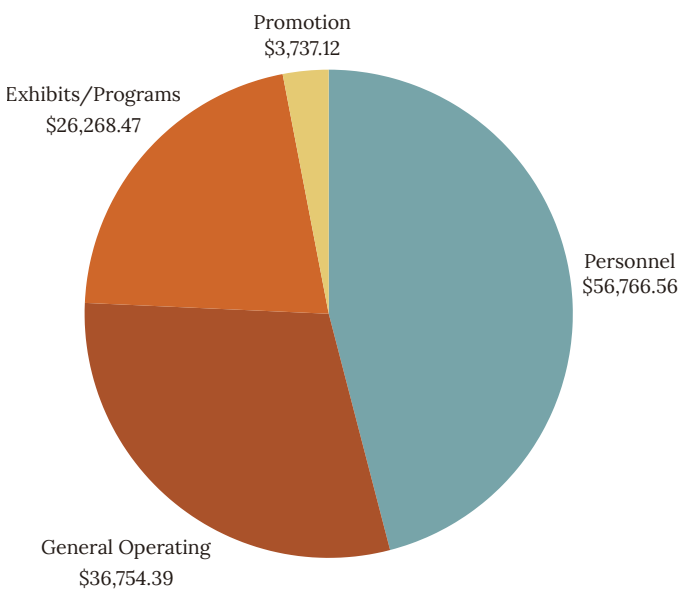
Financials

The Montezuma County Historical Society d.b.a. the Montezuma Heritage Museum is a non-profit Colorado corporation governed by a Board of Trustees. The museum relies on admission and membership fees, individual and business donations, foundation and agency grants, and a modest endowment to fund a professional staff, exhibits, public programs, and collections care.

2024 Income



2024 Expenses



Grantors

Thank you to the organizations whose financial support made many of our 2024 projects and programs possible.

- Colorado Housing & Finance Authority (CHFA)
- El Pomar Foundation
- Montezuma County Lodgers Tax
- Ballantine Family Fund
- Greenwood Fund



1,500

Museum Visitors

250 Program Attendees

200+ Area Students Reached

Members & Donors

Thank you to the members, donors, and businesses whose financial and in-kind contributions provided essential support to the museum in 2024.



Scott & Judy Aeschlimann
Don & Mary Akin
Victoria Atkins & Fred Blackburn
Cap Allen
Glen & Cammy Baer
Robert & Lou Ann Jacobson Ball
Marsha Bankston
Brian Bartlett
Richard Baxstrom
Dawn Beck
Jeanne & Joe Becker
Robert Bernhart
Chris Bjornn
Jody Blackmer
William Blackmer
Denis Boon
Ryan Brown
Derek Brown
Keven Brown
Hal Brown
Don & Ann Brown
Aryol & Jackie Brumley
Karel Buckley
Chris & Lou Burkett
Nelly & Steven Burns
Amy Cao
Deb Carley
Marjorie Connolly
Roger Coppinger
Kristen Corbitt
Ken & Shelly Curtis
Cliffrose Nursery
Robert De Groff
Susan Dees
Kenneth Degener
Bill & Laura Hall DiPaolo
Valerie Donegan
Tris & Bruce Downer
Lisa Elenz
Melinda Elkin
David Everett
Jerry & JoVonne Fitzgerald
Mark Frankman

First National Bank Cortez
Joel Gamache
Dolly & Lynn Gardner
Carolyn Goff
Debra Gonzales
Ross & Maiya Gralia
Lynn Greenlee
Chuck & Marilyn Haley
Leila Hanson
Karen Harbaugh
Linda Harbey
Lynn Hardy
Milton & Carol Harless
Sandra Harris
Lynn & Janice Harvey
Wendall Hassell
Tom & Polly Hayden
James & Virginia Goldstein Head
Terri Helm
Sue Hensler
Jim & Laura Herrick
Karen Higuera
Chris & Brandon Hill
Carole Hitti
Susan Hodgdon
Jonathan Hopkins
Blake Hughes
Linda Isaman
Jeff & Linda Jahraus
Jodi Jahrling
Iris Johnson
DeEtta Johnson
Graham & Cookie Johnson
Frederick Kail
Thelma Kastl
Sue Keagy
Deborah Keel
Mary Ann Keesee
Tulli Kerstetter
Farley Ketchum
David Kill
Debbie Klein
Kathy Kleinsorge

Jerry Koskie
Marianne Koskie
Uarda Kriner
Patricia Lacey
James & Lavern Lambert
Cheryl Lancaster
Carolyn Landes
Mike & Gail Lavey
Beverly Lawrence
Joyce & Roger Lawrence
Rick & Helen Lee
Robert & Cindy Lindvall
Danielle Long
Patricia Mancuso
Claudia Martin
Frank Martinez
Sandra Mathis
Jerrie Matthews
Sharon Maxwell
Susan Maxwell
Kelly R. McCabe, PC
MB & Chuck McAfee
Florence Mehalic
Gary & Stacy Merrifield
Ed & Sheryl Merritt
Jacinthe Messier
Chris L. Miles
Edward Miller
Pete & Laurel Montano
John Mumaw & Margaret O'Brien
Tracy Murphy
Linda L. Murray
Mesa Verde Country
Notah Dineh Trading Post & Museum
Tim Oliverius
Ore Communications
Julie Paige
Donna Peacock
Tom & Sissy Pittenger
Gala Pock
Shirley Powell & John Wood
Ardeth Ptolemy
Sandra Pyle
Elizabeth Quinn MacMillan

Susan Rain & Stephen Fox
Kerri Ransdell
Barbara Richhart
Ellen Roberts
Melanee Rockwell
Linda & Duncan Rose
Jim & Royanne Rogers
Susan Ryan
Re/Max Mesa Verde Realty
David & Annie Sanford
Jef Schrage
Jack & Judy Schuenemeyer
Don & Jody Schwindt
Karen Sheek
Carolyn & Steve Shimek
Squirrel Congress
Neill Smith
Barbara J. Stagg
James & Ila Starks
Krista Swanson
Holly Tatnall
Carol Taylor
John Thyfault
Roger & Cami Tompkins
Mitchell Toms
Mike Tower
Linda Towle
Tengen LLC
Jeanine Valdez
Grace Greenlee Vandenberg
Ilga Vise & Silvia Heitz
Mark Walker
Michelle Waltman
Ingrid Ward
Wendy Watkins & Paul Koops
Veronica Webster
Mary Welch
Helen West
Ann Wetton
John Willard
Wade Wilson
Duane & Thelma Woodard
Beverly Zion
Marilyn Zion

If there are any errors or omissions in this list, please send corrections to: execdirector@montezumamuseum.org



Excellent museum! One of the best we have visited.

We earn compliments like these only because your financial support provides the resources required to create a professional museum experience for our community and visitors to the area. By sustaining or increasing your financial investment, you allow us to increase our story telling capabilities and preservation efforts. **Thank you.**