



## **2026 JOSEPHINE H. MILES HISTORY AWARD AND CAROLINE BANCROFT HISTORY PROJECT AWARD**

Colorado born and raised Josephine H. Miles and Colorado journalist Caroline Bancroft each generously provided monetary awards to be given annually by History Colorado to the individual, organization, or museum in a municipality of Colorado which has made a major contribution during the year to the advancement of Colorado history. The awards recognize accomplishments; they are not grant programs.

The Josephine H. Miles History Award is for a project in communities larger than 50,000. The monetary prize includes a \$2500 award and a \$1000 honorary award.

The Caroline Bancroft History Project Award is designated for communities with a population of less than 50,000. The monetary prize awarded is \$1250.

### **Josephine H. Miles History Award Guidelines**

1. The applicant can be an individual, organization, or museum in a Colorado municipality with a population larger than 50,000. The monetary prizes include one \$2,500 award and one \$1,000 honorary award.
2. Any project, program, or effort, including one that is ongoing, that has made a great contribution in the prior year to the advancement of Colorado history will be eligible. To qualify for the 2026 award, the project must have occurred and been completed or presented between August 1, 2025 and May 1, 2026. The Award recognizes accomplishments related to Colorado history. As a guide, nominations may include one of the following or any combination thereof:
  - *Education:* programs or initiatives that increase public awareness and understanding of Colorado history, such as lectures, public events, or K-12 education programs.
  - *Exhibits:* an exhibit, which is open to the public, highlighting an aspect of Colorado history.
  - *Collections Management:* preserving and providing access to historic collection materials through activities such as cataloging and conservation.
  - *Research:* publicly accessible original research that expands knowledge and/or interpretation of Colorado history or encourages scholarship.
  - *Historic Preservation:* the preservation, restoration, stabilization, or rehabilitation of a significant historic structure or property or the creation of a local historic preservation ordinance or preservation plan.

- *Publications:* print publications such as books and periodicals and/or visual media including a website and film that expands understanding of Colorado history.

### **Caroline Bancroft History Project Award Guidelines**

Eligibility for the Bancroft History Project Award is the same as the Miles History Award except that applicants must be from communities with a population of less than 50,000. The monetary prize awarded is \$1250.

### **Nomination Procedure**

1. Submissions must be postmarked by June 1, 2026. Please submit the nomination form and supporting documentation to:  
  
History Colorado  
Stephen H. Hart Research Center  
1200 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203  
OR  
E-mail: [curator@state.co.us](mailto:curator@state.co.us)
2. If you are submitting electronically please put “**2026 Miles and Bancroft Awards Nomination**” in the subject line.
3. The nomination may be for a single project or for an organization as a whole.
4. Self-nominations are encouraged, and you may submit a single nomination packet for both awards (if eligible).
5. Ensure that the application form is completely filled out and includes a full written description of your project as instructed on the form.
6. Include a completed W-9 form with your application. This will ensure that any award money can be sent in a timely fashion.
7. The information you provide with the nomination form is the only additional material reviewers will have to evaluate the nomination, so including documentation sufficient to support and demonstrate the quality of the project is important.  
  
For example: if you nominate an exhibit project, you might want to include exhibit images and copies of the interpretive labels and text. Please keep in mind, the supporting documentation will not be returned to you.
8. Award winners will be announced August 1, 2026.

**Evaluation Criteria for the program, project, or effort:**

1. How has it expanded or furthered knowledge of Colorado history?
2. Is the project placed within the larger context of Colorado history?
3. Does this project amplify or highlight underrepresented or marginalized communities in Colorado history?
4. Does it stimulate public interest or involvement in history?
5. How did your project originate from, contribute to, and/or involve your community?
6. Does the project foster interest in Colorado history in an original or creative way?

**Questions to consider when describing your entry:**

1. What inspired the project? What was the need for it, and why did you pursue it?
2. What were the goals and objectives of your project or initiative? How did you meet them?
3. How did this project develop over the course of its implementation?
4. Who was involved in the project?
5. Who was this project for? Did you have a target audience?
6. What was the final outcome and impact?
7. What distinguishes your entry in advancing understanding of Colorado history?

***For further information about the awards competition please email:***  
curator@state.co.us

