

Denver Police Museum

Annual Report



2020



The front of the new 2021 challenge coin is shown on the cover of this report. It recognizes the service and death, due to the 1918 pandemic, of Police Officers Peter A. Walsh and Frank S. Potestio.

Shown on this page is the back of the 2021 challenge coin. It honors Deputy Marshal James C. Richey and Park Police Officer Andrew Sandberg.

Their names will be added to the Denver Police Memorial Wall.



Contents

A Brief History of the Denver Police Museum <i>Sgt. Dean Christopherson</i>	2
A Positive Contribution <i>Mike Hesse</i>	4
A Time for Reflection <i>Rosie Siemer</i>	6
METRO/SWAT Interactive Program	7
2020 Financial Report	10
Donations	10
Letter from the Mayor <i>Michael B. Hancock</i>	11
Letter from the Chief of Police <i>Paul M. Pazen</i>	12

A Brief History of the Denver Police Museum

The beginnings of a Police Museum grew out of a passion for history and a way to honor Officers that had died in the line of duty.

While serving as a Narcotics Agent in the Midwest before being hired by the Denver Police Department in 2000, I had already assisted agencies with research, identifying historically fallen Officers for recognition by their agencies. Upon arrival in Denver, I discovered there was a Denver Firefighters Museum, but nothing for the Police in the Capitol City, the largest department in the state.

In the process of researching Denver's fallen Officers, I discovered not only were some Officers not recognized but that many of the records of the department were scattered among various private and public entities or simply destroyed over the decades. When National Peace Officer Memorial Day, May 15th would come around I was dismayed to see that very few people knew of it, considering it was signed into law by President Kennedy in 1962. Federal buildings, Fire Departments, and others would put the flags at half-mast, but I noticed the department flags still flying high.

Replica of a 1930 Police car that is fully restored.



By 2002 I was pushing forward to get a museum, meeting with City Council members, looking at abandoned city buildings and pursuing all options. The eventual Museum project was formed to be the gatherers and caretakers of the history of the roughly 8,000 or more men and women that have served in some capacity as Police Officers in Denver since 1859.

It finally came together in mid-summer 2008 when I shared my ideas with Michael Hesse, Susan Smith, and Judith Tennant. Lance Clem, Colorado Department of Public Safety became involved in the organization and this talented group formed the Denver Police Museum as a 501(c)(3) on October 31, 2008. Since that time the Museum has done a tremendous amount of work to promote the history of the Denver Police Department, to recognize its fallen Officers, and to inspire new and veteran Officers to be proud of their service.

Since the inception in 2008, the Museum Board and its volunteers have contributed their time and efforts to share the history of the department with not only its members, but just as importantly the public it serves. Eleven additional lines of duty deaths have been recog-



Officer Doyle Pratt is building a relationship with a child. Community Relations photo taken about 1960.

nized, with two more pending research and thousands of artifacts have been curated and preserved for future generations to enjoy. Moving forward, we recognize the need for a museum that serves the community with programming and interactive projects for all ages. When funding is in place, our museum will be a venue for every member of the community, police included, to come together.

There have been many hands doing the lifting over the years, and a heartfelt thank you to everyone that has moved this project forward to where it is now and into in the future.

Respectfully,
Sgt. Dean Christopherson
Denver Police Department

A Positive Contribution

Law enforcement has been at the forefront of our national conversations this year. Some of the discussions included whether we need a different type of response to emergency situations, should officers have additional training and where do the community's responsibilities lie? All of these important questions and many others have been raised in the current debate.

The Denver Police Museum, a non-profit organization, has since inception focused heavily on building community relations and trust. Through our efforts to strengthen community relations we have studied other departments and museums to determine what they have already undertaken to meet this important challenge. I am happy to report we found some very promising efforts being undertaken by our neighbors to the north in Calgary, Canada. Calgary has

a program that is administered by the police museum, police foundation, and the police department. The Denver Police Museum Board strongly believes we can take the Calgary model known as Youthlink and modify it to create a state of the art community relations program for Denver.

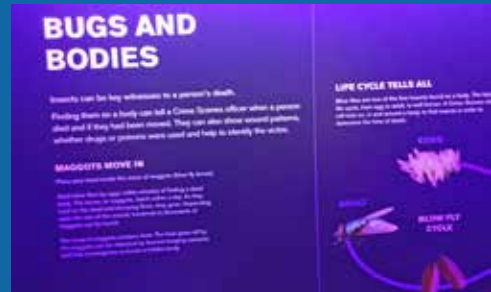
Youthlink is a program heavily funded by the private sector and targets a number of important and high risk populations. The programs target elementary school students with a focus on sixth graders (current target age in our society that gangs try to recruit new members). The program includes assisting young people with developing the necessary skill sets needed in today's world. Unfortunately, many schools and parents lack the resources necessary to help their children with these challenges. Programs include how to recognize and avoid gang recruitment, facts about drugs and alcohol, online security,



These images are from **YouthLink Calgary Police Interpretive Centre**. They give an example of what we wish the **Denver Police Museum** to be.

LEFT: The role a Mounted Patrol has in police work. Denver also has a mounted unit.

RIGHT: The investigations center.



healthy relationships and a clear explanation of the role of law enforcement in our society. Failure to develop these important skill sets with our society's cultural and technological changes can result in future criminal behavior.

The Denver Police Museum is committed to working with stakeholders to develop similar programs here in Denver. With our proposed state of the art facility in the new National Western Complex development, we can offer programs and opportunities for young people. The facility will enable law enforcement and members of the community to have a positive interaction. Unfortunately, in today's environment, many police/citizen interactions are centered on a negative event. (e.g. speeding ticket, home has been robbed, etc.)

We believe the Denver Police Museum can make Denver a national lead-

er in the area of community relations and crime prevention. In addition, we plan to partner with the Denver Police Crime Lab for special CSI programs and experiments. This will allow young people to explore potential opportunities in science and law enforcement. The most critical element to meet our community's needs in the future will be identifying and encouraging young people, with the right temperament, to become involved and ensure they have the training and skill sets needed to meet the expectations of an ever changing society.

Please consider joining our team! I know many of our fellow citizens are worried about the future, and getting involved will help ensure our community and nation not only meet the challenges ahead but excel.

Michael Hesse
President, Denver Police Museum



A Time for Reflection

The Denver Police Museum has embarked on a multi-phased initiative to gather input from a wide range of stakeholders that will inform our work going forward. With an aim of learning and reimagining the future we want to create, the findings from this research will help guide the planning efforts of the Museum in the areas of programming, community outreach, and fundraising.

Our Mission:

To promote social impact by building bridges between citizens and the law enforcement of Denver, creating opportunities for community understanding and engagement, strengthening the city's relationship with the community, and educating youth to inspire community involvement, responsibility, and a future generation of law enforcement professionals.

The Museum's mission depends on clear alignment between the Museum, our partners, and the vibrant community we serve. Thus, in 2020, the Museum began the process of reaching out to community leaders, law enforcement professionals, faith organizations, youth and their parents, local businesses, and government representatives to engage them in a meaningful and ongoing dialogue about the Museum's purpose and intended impact.

The primary goals of this research project are to:

- Understand what interviewees see as important community needs regarding relationships between law enforcement and the community (youth, in particular).
- Collect ideas and advice for how the Museum may help improve community relations with law enforcement.
- Gauge reactions to possible programming and community involvement efforts.

To serve the needs of our community in a constantly changing environment, the Museum will need to develop an aspirational and comprehensive plan that encompasses our unique programs and strengths. Doing so will require deep listening, engaging our community in the co-creation of innovative solutions, and exploring the many ways in which the Museum may serve as a collaborative community resource.

Upon completion of the initial phase of research, a report will be prepared with the study findings along with recommendations for how the Museum—in partnership with law enforcement, schools, and community organizations—may play a positive role in strengthening the connection between law enforcement and our community.

Rosie Siemer
Member, Board of Directors
Denver Police Museum

METRO/SWAT

An Interactive Program to Engage Youth



“GOOD JOB”

The Denver Police Museum hopes to be a leader in youth education and crime prevention as well as a facilitator to improve community relations between our police and the community, focusing on youth and families.


In keeping with this goal, the Museum has developed, and is continuing to develop, innovative programs to support trust-building, STEM education, and youth violence prevention.



“I had lots of fun”

The Museum is seeking to demonstrate how programs with positive officer and youth interactions can help to overcome fears and misconceptions about police and promote goodwill and understanding.

Our first program with the Denver Police Department’s METRO/SWAT unit was a big success. The Museum invited 24 students from Grant Beacon middle school and Kepner Beacon middle school to participate. With 12 METRO/SWAT officers and 14 Denver Police Museum volunteers, the day started in a classroom with a brief presentation of the History of Denver Police and Metro/SWAT. Next, it was on to the fun activities: students were divided into three modules each with their own distinct learning objectives:



“I learned more about the police dogs”

1. Equipment

Students learned about the equipment used by METRO/SWAT, including a K-9 dog. Artifacts from the Museum were also available for students to see and touch.

2. Gym

To demonstrate what officers need to do to stay physically fit, students were able to try out the gym equipment first-hand.

3. Vehicles

This module included METRO/SWAT vehicles, including the Museum’s 1964 Ford police car that the students were able to climb inside to see and touch all the bells and whistles.

The METRO/SWAT officers enjoyed their interactions with the students and thought it beneficial to all.

An exit survey was provided to students to gauge post-program results. A scale of 1-9 was used, with the number 9 representing “agree” or “positive.”

1. I would call the police if I needed help

All above 6, with 17 responses of 9

2. I would consider a career as a Police Officer

18 responses above 7

3. I think being a Police Officer is an important job

All responses above 7

4. I had fun today

23 responses of 9

5. I learned something today

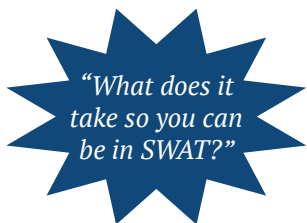
All above 7, with 17 responses of 9



Additional Strategies to Engage Youth

In conjunction with Denver 911, the Denver Police Museum has developed a program to invite students to visit the Denver 911 center to learn about the workings of 911. We will have a short presentation of the history of 911 and the Denver Police Department followed by hands-on activities, including students sitting in with call takers, dispatchers, Fire and EMS in a live environment. A police officer will bring their police car to the center to show the path of the call to the dispatcher and on to the officer. This program will feature a holistic real-world demonstration to educate students about all aspects of Denver 911. Importantly, the program will provide critical information regarding how to make a 911 call in an emergency and why the 911 call takers ask the questions they ask.

In addition, the Museum is looking forward to partnering with the Denver Police Crime Lab to create a series of STEM-focused programs for students to learn about new technologies and advances in science within the field of forensic science as well as to practice critical thinking skills.



We are excited about the opportunity to help educate youth about the history of policing as well as the current posture and possible future paths of law enforcement. The Museum is committed to serving as an active partner in developing young leaders, preventing youth violence, and helping to inspire a future generation of law enforcement professionals.



ABOVE:
 Fallen officer sign. The Museum has placed 37 signs with 35 more officers to honor.

LEFT:
 SWAT event for middle school students. They were invited to do some of the physical training the officers have to do.

BELOW:
 1964 Ford Galaxy police car with the “bubble gum” machine on top (rotating red light)—yes, they were called that.



Financial Report for 2020

Total Assets:	\$309,824.14
Donations:	\$91,420.12
Expenses:	\$63,006.50

The Denver Police Museum's K-9 Unit plush is available for purchase at the

[DenverPoliceMuseum.org/store-page](https://denverpolitemuseum.org/store-page)

Items available soon will include:

- baseball hats,
- windbreakers/jackets,
- key rings,
- and much, much more.



Donation Request

Donations are accepted and gratefully appreciated.

You may send yours to:

Denver Police Museum
PO Box 9140
Denver, CO 80209-0140

Or go online to [DenverPoliceMuseum.org](https://denverpolitemuseum.org)

click on **Support**, click on **Donate**, then complete the information.

Gifts to the Museum support our extensive collection of artifacts, engaging events, and educational activities. Your donation will ensure that the story of Denver's law enforcement history will be preserved, explored, and celebrated for generations to come.

January 20, 2021



Greetings:

Time and time again, Denver has been named by national publications as one of the best places in the nation to reside, raise a family and retire. Millennials and entrepreneurs alike can find successful careers in Denver. As for the important issues facing our residents every day, we continue to find innovative and creative solutions to give back to a city that gives so much.

As a great city, we must retain our history, and we must remain active, accessible and inclusive of all our residents. We must provide equality and safety for all our neighborhoods so Denver can continue to be a guiding light for the rest of the United States.

The Denver Police Museum is actively creating community conversations through programming for all ages, so our residents can see, hear, participate, understand and appreciate the value of police officers in our lives. This is the kind of open engagement we need to ensure that all have a voice in closing the gap between residents and police as has happened in other parts of the country.

That is why I am so excited to support the Denver Police Museum's efforts to build a state of the art museum to create a community experience unlike any other, one that will provide crime prevention education that targets key issues in the community and fosters constructive conversations with police officers. This will be a key effort not only in the police department's strategies to address crime and ensure the safety of Denver residents, but it will also be at the center of crime prevention education involving youth, adults and older adults – because everyone deserves to be safe. The Denver Police Museum is ready to take the lead in bringing the community and the police department together with the above goals in mind.

Please join me in supporting the Denver Police Museum in this noble endeavor.

Respectfully,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael B. Hancock".

Michael B. Hancock Mayor



**POLICE
DEPARTMENT**
DENVER PUBLIC SAFETY

January 26, 2021

Denver Police Museum
PO Box 9140
Denver, CO 80209

Greetings,

The Denver Police Department is a learning organization that reflects on its recent and distant history to help shape the future of the Department and its roles within the community we serve.

The Denver Police Museum, founded in 2008 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, does the important work of documenting and preserving the history of law enforcement in Denver and honoring those who have served before us.

The Denver Police Museum has completed this annual report to share with supporters and members of the community the many activities the museum has undertaken during the 2019-2020 time period. Since its founding, the mission of the museum has grown significantly.

The museum hosted numerous activities to honor fallen officers, recognize service, engage our young people, and preserve the law enforcement history of our community.

The Denver Police Museum is developing plans to further engage our community through programming for all ages so our residents can see, hear, understand and appreciate the value of law enforcement. This is the kind of meaningful engagement needed to continue strengthening the vital relationship between the Denver Police Department and the community we serve.

If you would like more information about the history of the Denver Police Department, or would like to volunteer, please visit www.denverpolicemuseum.org

Sincerely,

Paul M. Pazen
Chief of Denver Police



Museum event honoring division chief Casey Simpson, the emcee is Sgt. Carla Havard

A very special thank you

to each and every donor.

We are so grateful for your continued support.

To the Denver Police Museum volunteers

Your commitment, hard work and dedication
is greatly appreciated.

You have participated in programming,
sign ceremonies, as a researcher,
emceed events, fundraising,
given tours, assisted in the office,
traveled to other museums to study
their programming and their successes,
provided solace to grieving families,
and generally given of your time and energy.

Once again, you gave
more than 5,000 hours of your time
to the Denver Police Museum.

Thank you so very much!!!



DENVER POLICE
MUSEUM

Denver Police Museum Board of Directors

Sgt. Dean Christopherson
Nicole Galluzzo
Paul Schauer
Rosie Siemer
Lamar Sims

Denver Police Museum Executive Committee

Michael Hesse, President
Patricia Nading-Amman, Vice President
Linda Remley, Recording Secretary
April Overman, Treasurer

Curator

Felicia Sanchez

Thank you to:

Paul Schauer, Director
Denver Police Museum

Linda Remley, Recording Secretary
Executive Committee – Denver Police Museum

Jon LaFloe, Graphic Designer