

POLICE DEPT.
INFORMATION

2023 ANNUAL REPORT: A YEAR IN REVIEW



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Founded in 2008, the Denver Police Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to help create safer, stronger, and more vibrant communities in Denver and beyond.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

2023 was another very successful year for the Denver Police Museum. We are very grateful for the nearly 800 active officers who contribute to the Museum through payroll deductions, the many retirees who support the Museum financially and as volunteers, and the companies and foundations who generously support our mission. The Museum continues to be the largest volunteer component of the Volunteers in Policing Program within the Denver Police Department. Through the outstanding leadership of April Overman, we continue to expand and deliver our highly engaging youth programs. It is clear that there is a need to educate all of our citizens—especially young people—about the important role of public safety in our community. Through our program evaluations, we have captured valuable input and data to measure the positive impact of the Museum’s educational efforts. An important component of our youth programs is building awareness about career opportunities within law enforcement and public safety. By providing an opportunity for students to interact with police officers, crime lab technicians, attorneys, and 911 operators, the Museum’s youth programming is helping to inspire the next generation of law enforcement and public servants.

As a Museum, we recognize that we cannot solely focus on the stories of the past. It is our aspiration to be an active part of our communities, helping to shape the future of Denver and beyond.

Sincerely,

THE DENVER POLICE MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF



Denver Police Department
Office of Chief of Police

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June 2024

Denver Police Museum
PO Box 9140
Denver, CO 80209

Greetings,

The Denver Police Museum achieved countless successes throughout the 2023 calendar year, in alignment with its mission and clear vision. Founded in 2008, this non-profit organization is dedicated to preserving Denver's law enforcement history, honoring the lives of fallen officers, and fostering community engagement.

Through impactful programs, the museum has:

- **Commemorated fallen heroes:** Events have been held and signs have been dedicated to honor officers who have served and sacrificed for the community.
- **Recognized outstanding service:** The museum acknowledges the dedication of current officers.
- **Sparked young minds:** Engaging youth programs have been well-received by students and educators.
- **Preserved Denver's law enforcement legacy:** The museum serves as a valuable resource for understanding Denver's police history.

These initiatives provide invaluable opportunities for the Denver Police Department (DPD) to have positive interactions and engagement with all those we serve. DPD is proud to partner with the museum to foster a deeper understanding of law enforcement's role in our community and in the furtherance of the missions of both DPD and the Denver Police Museum.

I encourage you to learn more about the history of the Denver Police Department and volunteer opportunities with the Denver Police Museum, by visiting www.denverpolicemuseum.org.

Sincerely,

Ron Thomas
Chief of Denver Police
FOR CITY SERVICES VISIT | CALL
DenverGov.org | 311



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

The Museum continues to work diligently to share the important history of the Denver Police Department. With the founding of the Denver Police Department in 1859, the Museum helped to celebrate 164 years of service in 2023. Importantly, the Museum continues to host a wide range of dedication and recognition activities throughout National Police Week each May. National Police Week recognizes the service of law enforcement and honors those officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others. A special thank you to the Denver City Office of Special Events for partnering with the Denver Police Museum to highlight National Police Week by lighting the Denver City and County Building blue.

In 2023, the Museum hosted Denver Girl Scout Troop 66622 for a forensic science program, hosted a special tribute for retired Denver Police Division Chief Art Arita on his ninety-first birthday, hosted a special Denver Police History presentation at Windsor Gardens, brought two museum cars and snacks to the Escalante Biggs Community Academy, and was honored to be recognized as a Spark Partner of the Year for our innovative youth programs.



HONORING THE FALLEN

The Denver Police Department has lost 77 officers in the line of duty. Through research by former Denver Police Museum President Dean Christopherson, we have added a number of historic officers to our memorial wall. We also continue to place memorial plaques for our fallen officers at the locations where they lost their lives. We have placed over 40 memorial plaques throughout the city.

Thanks to the hard work of retired Lt. Bill Finch we have been able to produce a narrative about the circumstances involved in each of the officers' tragedies. Our ancestry expert, Jeff Burke, has also been very successful in locating fallen officer families from the past. Thanks to Jeff's efforts, we have been able to have members of the officer's extended family present when we place a memorial sign.

In 2023, we placed a memorial sign honoring George Klein, a member of the bootleg squad who was killed by the mob in the line of duty in 1919 outside his home. Denver's Channel 7 did an outstanding job putting together a story about Officer Klein and the University of Denver's Jewish Studies program provided important information about Officer Klein's Jewish ancestry and heritage. Additionally, the Denver Jewish News published a compelling story along with the Mizel Museum which helped communicate the sacrifice and heroism of Officer Klein within the Jewish community.

Through the Museum's ongoing Memorial Services, we work to commemorate these officers' courage, dedication, and unwavering commitment to preserving our safety and our way of life.



RECOGNIZING THE TRAILBLAZERS

In February 2023, the Museum partnered with the Denver Black Officers Organization to honor the service of retired Lt. Les Perry. Byron Reed with Channel 9 produced a wonderful story about Lt. Perry which was featured as part of the station's Black History Month activities. In July 2023, the Museum recognized Denver's first female Police Officer Sadie Likens who joined the department in 1890. Members of the Museum visited Harvard Nebraska where Sadie lived in the 1880s and placed a memorial sign in her honor.



The Museum also honored Marsha Kiddoo, the first Denver Police Woman assigned to patrol. Karen Morfitt of CBS Denver published a story that highlighted the outstanding service and many challenges that Officer Kiddoo experienced while serving in the department.



For Hispanic Heritage Month, the Museum honored former Division Chief Juan Maldonado. Division Chief Maldonado was an early Hispanic leader in the department and inspired many who followed in his footsteps. Byron Reed published a story which was included in Channel 9's coverage of Hispanic Heritage Month.



FAMOUS DENVER CRIMES & HISTORIC DENVER FIRES

The Museum partnered with the Denver Firefighters Museum and Visit Denver for our annual historic bus tour in November. The focus of the 2023 tour was Famous Denver Crimes and Historic Denver Fires.

The tour included the United Bank Robbery, a murder at the Brown Palace, the sacrifice of Denver Police Officer Donald DeBruno, and the fires at both the Denver Athletic Club in the 1950s and the Denver Masonic Lodge Fire in the 1980s.

LEGACY PROGRAM

In 2023, the Museum officially launched our Legacy Program with special recognition of the O'Neill family's 76 years of service to the Citizens of Denver. The Museum was delighted that Channel 4 ran a story later in the week honoring the family. The family was recognized during National Police Week and also received a proclamation from the city for their service.



BUILDING TRUST BETWEEN YOUTH & LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Museum is proud to have served over 300 students in our STEM and career exploration programs for Denver Public Schools (DPS) students grades 6-8. In addition to these programs the Museum also hosted another 200 high school students through our traffic safety program and various field trips. Through immersive educational activities, these programs incorporate fun and interactive learning for middle school and high school youth to deliver age-appropriate STEM, civics, and career exploration activities, including the opportunity to meet professionals working in the areas of forensic science, criminal justice, and law enforcement. The Museum's desired outcomes for our youth programs are to (1) spark a curiosity in STEM and public service, (2) create pathways for career exploration, and (3) build trust between youth and law enforcement.

In 2023, the Museum was honored to be recognized as a SPARK Partner of the Year. DPS Spark Early Career Exploration Program partners with Denver Metro area businesses and organizations to expose middle and elementary school students to professional work environments and inspire students to pursue high-demand, high-wage careers they may never have considered prior to participating. In the Spark program, students are introduced to the world of work through off-site industry visits, school-based workshops, and career exploration lessons.

Thank you to our partners and supporters who make these programs possible: Denver Police Department, Denver 911, Denver District Attorney's Office, Denver Crime Lab, DPS SPARK, The Anschutz Foundation, the E-470 Transportation Safety Foundation, and our donors. And a very special thank you to all of the Museum's volunteers—without you, these programs would not be possible!

Respectfully,
April Overman
DPM Youth Program Coordinator

"The programs have been very insightful and fun. We and the students look forward to each of these trips and enjoy partnering with the Denver Police Museum. It is evident that the Museum puts not only a lot of work into making these programs possible, but more so your heart. I truly believe the more we are able to partner, the more our community will be brought together. Thank you for putting in the effort to make these programs possible!"

~ Ashley Sullivan, Regional Coordinator, Middle School Career Exploration, Office of Career & College Success at Denver Public Schools



LOCAL FOUNDATIONS INVEST IN YOUTH PROGRAMS

Through interactive, culturally responsive, and socially relevant programming, the Denver Police Museum is redefining educational and community impact experiences utilizing a blend of history, civics, public safety, and STEM to shape the future of Denver and beyond. The Museum is dedicated to actively creating community conversations where citizens can hear, see, feel, participate, understand, and appreciate the value of police in our lives. Our hands-on learning and events teach youth and communities about careers in law enforcement, criminal justice, history, safety, and policing in our city.

In 2023, the Museum received a generous grant of \$10,000 from The Anschutz Foundation to support the continued implementation of our STEM & Civics Enrichment Program. Focused on students in grades 6-8, the program provides youth with accessible and educationally rich content while creating opportunities for career exploration in law enforcement, forensic science, and criminal justice.

Overall, the Museum’s STEM & Civics Enrichment Program showed positive gains in several key areas. Post-program scores showed an overall improvement of 16 percent with a notable 20 percent increase in the number of students who responded that they Somewhat Agree or Strongly Agree with the six tested sentiment statements. Importantly, outcomes showed a 25 percent increase in interest in careers related to STEM and a 22 percent increase in interest in careers in law enforcement—a primary goal of the program.

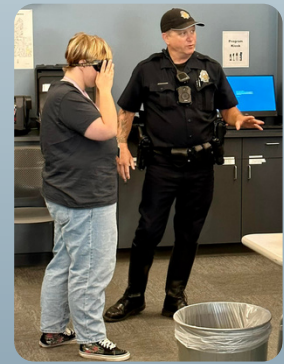




TRAFFIC SAFETY

With generous support from the E-470 Public Highway Authority Transportation Safety Foundation in 2022, the Museum successfully piloted a youth-focused Traffic Safety Program. The goal of the Traffic Safety Program is to prevent deaths and serious injuries on Denver’s roadways by educating young drivers about traffic safety and traffic laws, including the risks of distracted and impaired driving, what to do if they are pulled over by a police officer, and how to report an accident. The program is also an opportunity to build trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve—especially youth.

With increased funding in 2023 from the E-470 Transportation Safety Foundation, we continued and expanded the program to include hands-on educational activities with real law enforcement officers from the Denver Police Department. This innovative approach to traffic safety education provided students with access to critical information in an engaging and unique format. Feedback from participants and partners indicate that the program has been a tremendous success.



Designed for young drivers in grades 10 through 12 (ages 15 to 19) who are disproportionately impacted by traffic safety fatalities, the Traffic Safety Program supports the goals of empowering and engaging youth to promote safe driving behaviors, including Graduated Drivers Licensing (GDL) education and awareness, distracted driving prevention, seat belt compliance, impaired driving prevention, and distracted driving prevention. In partnership with active and retired law enforcement officers, the program provides a unique opportunity to emphasize positive interactions with law enforcement officers in an approachable, fun, and educational setting.



TRAFFIC SAFETY

The Traffic Safety Program includes a 4-hour hands-on and immersive educational experience with real law enforcement officers in an approachable and fun setting. Topics covered in the program include:

- **Interacting With Police During a Traffic Stop** - In response to national concern regarding how traffic stops have become unnecessarily dangerous—especially for people of color—due in part to a lack of transparency and community education, the Museum’s Traffic Safety Program aims to educate teens and their families about the purpose and protocols of traffic stops to keep themselves and officers safe. Young drivers learn what to do if they are stopped by police, including how to safely pull over, when and how to provide information such as your license and proof of insurance, and how and why they should comply with the officer’s instructions.
- **What To Do In An Emergency** - Students learn what to do in an emergency, including how to report an accident and what to do if they need help.
- **Colorado GDL Laws** - Students learn about Colorado’s Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws, including passenger restrictions, mandatory seat belts, cell phone, and texting bans, curfew, and zero tolerance for drunk driving.
- **Traffic Tech** - Students get a behind-the-scenes look at the technology utilized by law enforcement such as breathalyzers and how drugs and alcohol affect judgment, concentration, vision, and reaction time, including trying on Fatal Vision Goggles-training tools for simulating the effects of alcohol and drug impairment without actually using these substances.

“Thank you so much for hosting our students...It was an amazing experience that was engaging and informative.”

– Cisco Tapia, Career & College Navigator, Denver Public Schools



2023-25 STRATEGIC PLAN

Facilitated by Corona Insights, the board of directors undertook a strategic planning process beginning in Fall 2022, including input from board members and other key stakeholders collected via online questionnaires. In spring 2023, Corona Insights led the DPM board in a series of working sessions and planning meetings.

Input from stakeholders indicated that the Museum is unique in its role sharing the history of Denver law enforcement, in its interactive youth programming, and in its potential role linking law enforcement with the broader community. Some of the key strengths identified during the planning process included honoring fallen officers, providing youth education related to law enforcement, and providing community programming.

In recent years, increased media coverage of negative and/or deadly interactions between communities and police has amplified the debate about what the relationship between law enforcement and the communities it serves should look like. Museums provide a different way to approach the debate, by presenting the bigger history and showing different future possibilities. Additionally, museums can increase how productive a debate is by giving opposing parties a shared pool of information and history from which to work. While there are several other law enforcement museums across the US, almost all are run by law enforcement agencies. Thus, there is an opportunity to create a law enforcement museum that is community-focused, builds shared understanding, and provides space to examine the relationship between law enforcement and the communities it serves through both the lens of law enforcement and the lens of the broader community.

The Museum is strategically unique in its commitment to lean into this community focus. The outcome of this planning process included a new mission statement, vision, and set of core values for the Museum along with a commitment to:

- **Build Bridges and Foster Understanding:** We are dedicated to creating community conversations where citizens can have a voice, share their experiences, and hear, see, feel, and appreciate the value of police in our lives. DPM has an important role to play in improving police-community relations, especially in humanizing police officers, providing opportunities for positive interactions with police in a safe environment, and helping to build trust between law enforcement and the diverse communities they serve.
- **Educate and Inspire:** Education is at the heart of our endeavor. We offer interactive, culturally responsive, and socially relevant programs, workshops, and events that engage, inform, and empower individuals of all ages. Through these experiences, we inspire empathy, encourage critical thinking, and promote shared responsibility in creating safer, stronger, and more vibrant communities.
- **Preserve Law Enforcement History:** Our Museum is a repository of the noble, rich, and complex history of law enforcement. We collect, curate, and preserve the stories, artifacts, and sacrifices of those who have sworn an oath to protect and serve. Through transparency, inclusion, collaboration, and respect, we strive to provide an innovative, national model of a community-focused law enforcement Museum.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Cash Assets	\$392,207
Donations	\$189,239
Grants	\$15,000
Total Expenses	\$99,171
Program Expenses	\$78,765
Other Expenses	\$20,406

JOIN US!

We hope you will consider continuing or becoming a member of the Denver Police Museum. Your contribution directly supports the Museum's educational programs, community outreach exhibits and preservation of our historical collections.



GOLD MEMBERSHIP \$100

- Gold Membership Card
- A Collectible 2024 Denver Police Museum Challenge Coin
- Private Tour of the Denver Police Archiving Center
- Lecture Series on History of Denver Police Department

SILVER MEMBERSHIP \$50

- Silver Membership Card
- A Collectible 2024 Denver Police Museum Challenge Coin
- Private Tour of the Denver Police Archiving Center



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS, SUPPORTERS, DONORS & VOLUNTEERS

The Museum would like to acknowledge the strong support we receive from the **Colorado Rockies**. The team continues to provide the Museum with free tickets for our active and retired officers and support staff. This generous contribution really allows the Museum to build strong relationships and memories within the Denver Police Family. Thank you!

The Museum would also like to thank the leadership of the **Denver Police Retiree Association**. Your ongoing partnership is greatly appreciated and enables the Museum to continue to fulfill our mission. Our many thanks for your support!

Special thanks to our sponsors **History Colorado, Center for Colorado Women's History**, and the **Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)**.

**A very special thank you to each and every donor.
We are so grateful for your continued support.**

To our Denver Police Museum Volunteers:
Your commitment, hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated.

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

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



POLICE DEPT.
INFORMATION

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LINDA REMLEY, RECORDING SECRETARY

APRIL OVERMAN, TREASURER

'23 DPM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SGT. DEAN CHRISTOPHERSON

ROSIE SIEMER

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