

# WELCOME!

You are about to celebrate the art, history, nature and science, and culture of the American West.

The Buffalo Bill Center of the West is five museums and a research library in one. As you explore the rich diversity of our collections, you will discover the real and mythic West through art and artifacts.

## OUR HISTORY

- 1917 Col. William F. Cody "Buffalo Bill" dies on January 10 at age 70 in Denver, Colorado.
- 1917 Buffalo Bill Memorial Association is established to build and maintain a historical monument to Col. William F. Cody.
- 1924 *Buffalo Bill - the Scout*, a heroic equestrian bronze statue by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, is unveiled and presented to the Memorial Association.
- 1927 Buffalo Bill Museum (current site of the Cody Country Chamber of Commerce and the Cody Country Art League) is dedicated and opens to the public on July 4 with Cody's niece, Mary Jester Allen, as the first curator.
- 1935 Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney donates the Center's current 40-acre site.
- 1959 Whitney Gallery of Western Art is dedicated in a newly constructed modern facility.
- 1969 Buffalo Bill Museum opens June 3 as the Buffalo Bill Historical Center complex is initially completed, and the Plains Indian Collection added.
- 1970 Buffalo Bill's childhood home (a national historical building) from Le Claire, Iowa is moved to its current site.
- 1978 W.H.D. Koerner Studio in the Whitney Gallery of Western Art is dedicated.
- 1979 Plains Indian Museum is dedicated.
- 1980 The Winchester Collection is installed; the McCracken Research Library is dedicated.
- 1981 The Remington Studio in the Whitney Gallery of Western Art is dedicated; Paul R. Greever Garden is dedicated.
- 1983 The Braun Garden is dedicated, a gift of Marjorie May Braun through the Braun Foundation.
- 1986 Buffalo Bill Museum rededicated.
- 1987 Whitney Gallery of Western Art is rededicated.
- 1991 Cody Firearms Museum is dedicated and opens to the public.
- 1994 McCracken Research Library is rededicated.
- 1995 H. Peter and Jeannette Kriendler Gallery of Contemporary Western Art dedicated.
- 2000 Plains Indian Museum is rededicated.
- 2002 Draper Museum of Natural History is dedicated.
- 2009 Whitney Gallery of Western Art is redesigned.
- 2012 Buffalo Bill Museum is remodeled and is rededicated.
- 2013 Buffalo Bill Historical Center is renamed to Buffalo Bill Center of the West to more accurately describe the width and depth of the museum's mission, collections, and programs. In addition, the Whitney Gallery of Western Art becomes the Whitney Western Art Museum, and the Draper Museum of Natural History becomes the Draper Natural History Museum.
- 2017 The Buffalo Bill Memorial Association is 100 years old; in 2017, we celebrate our centennial!

## William Fredrick "Buffalo Bill" Cody

**BORN:** February 26, 1846, Le Claire, Iowa

**DIED:** January 10, 1917, Denver, Colorado (70 years old)

**BURIED:** June 3, 1917, Lookout Mountain, Colorado

**SPOUSE:** Louisa Maud Frederici (1843–1921) (m. 1866–1917)

**CHILDREN:** Arta Cody (1866–1904), Kit Carson Cody (1870–1876), Orra Maude Cody (1872–1883), Irma Louisa Cody Garlow (1883–1918)



**BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST**

*The mission of the* **BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST**  
To inspire, educate, and engage global audiences through  
an authentic experience with the American West.

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