



2016

Annual Report

*Celebrating the Spirit
of the American West*

BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST

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Nelson Boren (b. 1952), *Kick'n Back*, 1995, watercolor on paper. Gift of the Alexander Bodini Foundation, in memory of Alexander Bodini, 4.96

Dear Friends of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West,

Founded in 1917 in memory of the man who was one of the most famous people in the world during his lifetime, the Buffalo Bill Memorial Association has grown over the intervening years into a collection of world-class museums and a research library that together form the most comprehensive and beloved institution celebrating the American West – the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. 2016 marks the end of our first century, a century so full of change, achievement, and audacious undertakings, it would have impressed even the visionary and accomplished Buffalo Bill himself.

William F. Cody was a man of action, and we consider that part of our heritage and mission. To provide needed resources for our strategic goals, in 2016 we kicked off the “quiet phase” of “The New Century Campaign,” a major comprehensive fundraising effort. The New Century Campaign seeks to meet the Center’s major capital, programmatic, operational, and endowment needs as we begin the next 100 years.



We feel fortunate to have the very best people committed to the success of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West: highly competent staff, dedicated volunteers, a diverse and talented roster of trustees and advisors, eager visitors, and generous donors. Together, we keep the Spirit of the American West alive and relevant.

Please read on, and learn more about what all these people made possible in 2016.

Sincerely,

Barron G. Collier II
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Bruce B. Eldredge
Executive Director & CEO

2016 highlights

In many ways, 2016 was a transformational year for the Center. Initiatives ranged from interdisciplinary scholarship to creating new opportunities for earned revenue. Impressive partnerships enabled our curatorial and interpretive staffs to stretch, which in turn created fabulous exhibitions and learning programs for our visitors. We want to continue to deliver on our promise that we're world class and innovative, and constantly look for ways to make our collections and the incredible story of the American West come alive for audiences. We strive to be at the forefront of redefining how museums help people look at things in new ways that provoke thought, and stimulate the desire to learn more.



Dr. C.R. Preston, B. Eldredge, B. Collier, HSH Prince Albert II, Dr. C. Lee, Dr. G. Pederson, Dr. D. McWethy.

CEO Bruce Eldredge, Board Chair Barron Collier, and Draper Natural History Museum Senior Curator Charles R. Preston returned His Serene Highness Prince Albert II's 2013 visit and **traveled to the Principality of Monaco to help present the second Camp Monaco Research Prize**. Commemorating the hunting trip Prince Albert I took with Buffalo Bill in 1913 in the beautiful area between Cody and Yellowstone, this prize provides funds for environmental research projects within the Yellowstone ecosystem, and is awarded every three years.

Microsoft's Skype in the Classroom program has designated the Center of the West a **"Master Partner."** Center staff presented lessons to nearly 20,000 students in 46 states and 12 countries from New Zealand to Cyprus. Our success using Skype technology led Microsoft to recruit our educators to train others on effectively using Skype to interact with audiences wherever they may be.

Director Emeritus and Senior Scholar Peter Hassrick completed the second edition of the **Frederic Remington Catalogue Raisonné II**, the definitive resource on this great western artist's work.

We opened the new **Kuyper Dining Pavilion**, creating great new revenue potential. The Pavilion provides additional seating for museum visitors and a unique location for private events and our new dinner show, **Dan Miller's Cowboy Music Revue**. With a capacity of 200 for a sit-down meal, the Kuyper Pavilion is another resource for our tourism partners as they promote Cody as a terrific site for meetings and conferences that also make use of hotels, restaurants, attractions, shops, and other retail services.

The **Papers of William F. Cody** was awarded a **\$300,000 grant** from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In a highly competitive field, *The Papers'* request was fully funded, and includes collaborative elements with ongoing partners Ball State University, Brigham Young University, and the University of Nebraska.



Contractors, staff, and volunteers completed work on the **new Outdoor Play Area and Garden**. Kids who need to burn off some energy can still learn about the West on the custom playground equipment and try their hand at games children played in Buffalo Bill's time. The play area is dedicated to the memory of Tami Collier.

Invisible Boundaries: Exploring Yellowstone's Great Animal Migrations shared results of the research completed by the winners of the first Camp Monaco prize. The immensely popular exhibition included photography, paintings, and video, as well as a three-dimensional topographical model to vividly illustrate the migrations of elk herds within the Greater Yellowstone area. A smaller version of the exhibition was featured at National Geographic's headquarters in Washington, DC. The Center's multi-disciplinary structure allowed us to illuminate the science through the use of visual arts, while enhancing appreciation of the art through the natural history depicted. (More on Invisible Boundaries can be found in our Exhibitions section, page 6.)

Visitor accolades continued to pour in, along with recognition from the western preservation and travel communities, in 2016. *Trip Advisor* named the Buffalo Bill Center of the West as the **"Number One Museum in Wyoming Worth Traveling For,"** awarding its Certificate of Excellence to the Center for the fourth straight year. *True West* magazine named the **Cody Firearms Museum as the third best Top Western Museum** in the country, and the **Whitney Western Art Museum as the second best Western Art Museum**.

exhibitions

Special exhibitions allow curators to bring objects out from the vaults, explore a subject in depth, display items on loan from other institutions or individuals, or, as in 2016, celebrate a milestone like the National Park Service Centennial. New permanent exhibits keep the museums fresh for our frequent visitors and let us display new acquisitions or better tell a story.

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

GLOCK Makes History: The Birth of the Polymer Handgun Market is the first museum exhibition of GLOCK firearms in the United States. The revolution in the firearms industry caused by the introduction of polymer as a primary material is explored, and several prototypes are included, most notably a gun hand-cut by Gaston Glock himself. GLOCK firearms are favored by many law enforcement agencies as well as consumers, and the exhibition, which continues throughout 2017, appeals to audiences interested in contemporary firearms.

Invisible Boundaries: Exploring Yellowstone's Great Animal Migrations was a joint project of the Draper Natural History Museum and the Whitney Western Art Museum. The public engagement component of the first Camp Monaco Research Prize (see Highlights, page 4), *Invisible Boundaries* documented seasonal migration routes of Yellowstone elk herds. Researcher Arthur Middleton was accompanied

in his field studies by photographer Joe Riis and painter James Prosek, along with cinematographer Jenny Nichols. The National Geographic Society in Washington, DC created a smaller version of the exhibition at their headquarters, and Middleton and Riis lectured to a sold-out audience there on opening night.

Yellowstone Discovered: William Henry Jackson's Lost Prints Reveal the Park for America celebrated America's first national park with more than fifty digital reproductions of Jackson's images of Yellowstone taken in 1871. The originals are rare Albertype prints. The McCracken Research Library worked with guest curator Matthew Hermes of Clemson University and private collector Dr. Robert Enteen.

Inspiring Sights: Yellowstone through Artists' Eyes featured more than forty works of art from the Whitney's permanent collection plus regional loans, as part of our celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. *Inspiring Sights* examined Yellowstone as an

unrivaled source of inspiration and heralded artists as champions of its wild beauty. Center staff also created *Putting Yellowstone on the Map*, an exhibition telling the story of how America's first national park came to have its present-day borders, related in a series of historical maps.

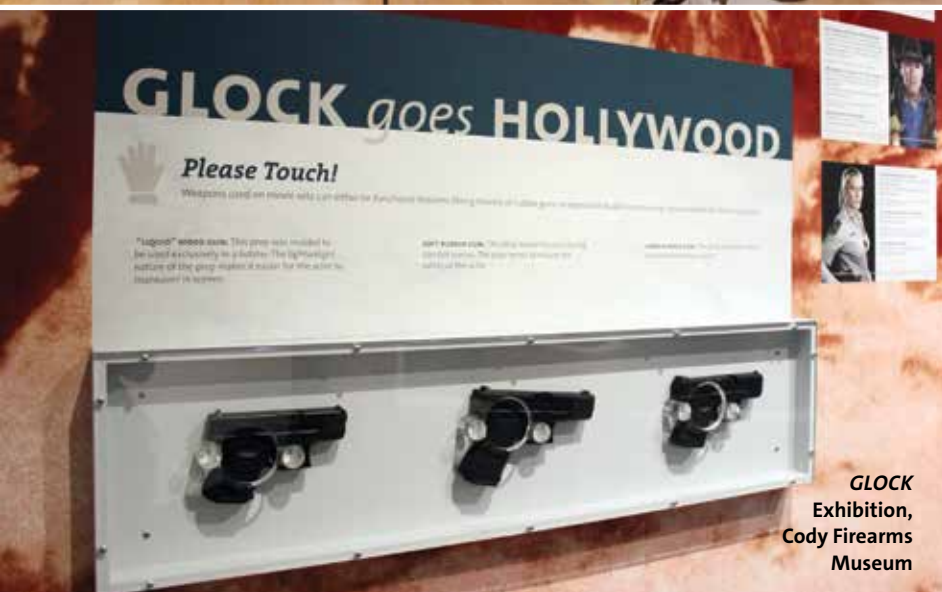
NEW PERMANENT EXHIBITIONS

The Cane Case is an homage to the leaders and founders of the Plains Indian Museum Advisory Board. The case contains beaded canes and walking sticks given in memory of past advisory board chairs and leaders instrumental in the development of the museum, which was the first Indian museum in the country to include tribal members on its board.

Steve Seay Geology Field Station Cabin got a facelift to better convey the fascinating and unusual geology of our region. Images show how Wyoming might have looked throughout geologic history, and a stratigraphic column illustrates the many layers of rock beneath the Big



**Go West Exhibition, Palm Springs Art Museum,
Clays III Wing**
Photography by David Blank



**GLOCK
Exhibition,
Cody Firearms
Museum**



**Cane Case
Plains
Indian
Museum**

Horn Basin. With the assistance of geologists at the Cody Bureau of Land Management office, Draper Museum and Education staff plan more improvements throughout 2017.

TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS

Go West! Art of the American Frontier from the Buffalo Bill Center of the West closed at the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, and went on to the Palm Springs Art Museum. The exhibition includes seventy-five works from the

Whitney and fifteen from the Plains Indian Museum spanning the century from 1830 to 1930.

Painted Journeys: The Art of John Mix Stanley finished its tour at the Tacoma Art Museum. The exhibition catalogue won a Western Heritage Award in the Art Book category, presented by the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

150th Anniversary Celebration of Winchester featured ten firearms from

the Cody Firearms Museum (CFM). The donation of the iconic brand's corporate collection to the Center was the genesis of the CFM. The firearms were exhibited in the Winchester Repeating Arms and Winchester Ammunition booths at the National Shooting Sports Foundation's SHOT Show, and the National Rifle Association annual meeting and exhibition, with combined attendance of over 160,000. Hundreds of thousands of viewers have watched an online series of videos about the firearms.

programming

Each museum presents ongoing programs to engage visitors, enrich their experience as they learn about the “Wild West,” and expand their notion of what the American West is all about. Perennial favorites like the chuck wagon, visiting artists, and docent-led thematic tours plus other ongoing interpretive presentations provide many opportunities for visitors to go beyond the display cases to hear anecdotes and experience the authentic West.

Special presentations, lecture series, new technologies, and outreach by our curatorial staff are all part of fulfilling our mission to inspire, educate, and engage our audiences.

Some of our many 2016 programs:

Online collection

Digitizing records, photographs of objects, and two-dimensional artifacts to add to our website is a Center priority. A major component of this effort was concluded in 2016 with the digitizing and cataloging of over 8,600 photographs in the William F. Cody Collection. These photos are the most requested items in the McCracken Research Library collection, studied for scholarly projects of all kinds.

Lecture Series, Draper Natural History Museum

Lunchtime and evening programs feature speakers on topics ranging from grizzly bears to snowmelt archaeology.

Plains Indian Map, Plains Indian Museum

This interactive, multi-layered, high-resolution electronic map shows the movements, both seasonal and in response to events such as war or the decline of the buffalo, of 45 different tribes over 230 years. Territorial, treaty, reservation, and state boundaries flow in an animated timeline. The technology can accommodate additional layers to add to the depth and richness of the migration story.

Firearms Up Close, Cody Firearms Museum

Visitors learn about firearms of the West, including the proper and safe handling of firearms as artifacts. For many visitors, including our many international guests, this may be their first, and only, opportunity to handle firearms and learn about them in an interactive environment.

Symposium, Whitney Western Art Museum

In celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service, a one-day symposium convened six scholars to share their perspectives on the history of art and artists in the Park. *Inspiring Sights: Yellowstone through Artists' Eyes* featured talks on historical and contemporary artists.



Raptor Experience

Raptor Experience, Draper Museum of Natural History

Nine raptors make their home at the Center of the West: a turkey buzzard, three owls (including two 2016 arrivals, a northern saw-whet and a short-eared owl), a golden eagle, and our most recent addition, a juvenile bald eagle. Presenters share the amazing abilities of these birds, threats to their changing habitats, and more. Due to injury or other circumstance that prevents them from being able to survive in the wild, all the raptors have been designated as non-releasable by the appropriate state and federal government agencies.

Author lectures

Several authors visited the Center to talk about their new books on various aspects of western history, science, and culture. Best selling author Peter Cozzens launched his book *The Earth is Weeping* at the Center in September, with C-SPAN broadcasting his presentation. The book has gone on to win several awards, including the Gilder Lehrman Prize for Military History, and was a Smithsonian Top History Book of 2016.

Scots in the West Lecture Series

The National Trust for Scotland Patrons Club traveled to Cody to learn more about the role of Scots in settling the American West. Illustrative of the international fascination with Buffalo Bill that continues today, the group included Richard Scott, the 10th Duke of Buccleuch and 12th Duke of Queensberry, as well as direct descendant of Sir Walter Scott. Scholarly lectures and an in-depth tour of the Center were included.

scholarship

Center curators share their passion for their subject matter by giving public lectures and presenting at conferences. Advancing knowledge and understanding in their fields is also a priority, leading to original research, publications, and the opportunity to provide expertise on panels and juries.

A selection of 2016 scholarship includes:

Peter Hassrick, Director Emeritus, completed and published ***Frederic Remington: A Catalogue Raisonné' II***. This is the definitive catalogue on the beloved and prolific sculptor and painter of the American West.

Fur Traders and Rendezvous: The Alfred Jacob Miller Online Catalogue, a collaborative project of the Whitney Western Art Museum and the Ricketts Art Foundation, featured more than five hundred essays on the subject by a team of scholars. Peter Hassrick and Scarlett Curator of Western American Art Karen McWhorter contributed scholarly essays and insights.

Whitney West is a new publication series of the Whitney Western Art Museum. Peter Hassrick's revised *Drawn to Yellowstone: Artists in America's First National Park* is the first volume in the series, published by the University of Oklahoma Press.

The Papers of William F. Cody was awarded a \$300,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In a highly competitive field, *The Papers* request was fully funded, and brings the total of NEH support for the project to \$700,000. The grant came from the NEH's Scholarly Editions category, the third time *The Papers* has been recognized for its important contribution to the study and understanding of this larger-than-life western figure.

Ashley Hlebinsky, Robert W. Woodruff Curator, Cody Firearms Museum, authored two articles for the journal **CLOG**, which explores one relevant subject from multiple perspectives in each issue. Hlebinsky wrote about the issues surrounding the display of firearms when they are "politically incorrect" in much of America today. She also discussed gendered advertising in the firearms industry.





STANDING

Karen McWhorter, Scarlett Curator of Western American Art

Rebecca West, Curator, Plains Indian Museum

Mary Robinson, Housel Director, McCracken Research Library

Beverly Perkins, Conservator and Director of Museum Services

SEATED

Jeremy Johnston, The Hal and Naoma Tate Endowed Chair and Curator of Western History, Ernest J. Goppert Curator of the Buffalo Bill Museum, Managing Editor of *The Papers of William F. Cody*

Charles R. Preston, PhD, Willis McDonald, IV Senior Curator of Natural Science

Ashley Hlebinsky, Robert W. Woodruff Curator, Cody Firearms Museum

NOT PICTURED

Gretchen Henrich, Brown Foundation, Inc. Director of the Interpretive Education Division

Hlebinsky also was asked to participate in the **Aspen Institute's Firearms and Common Law Symposium**. Co-hosted by the Aspen Institute, the Smithsonian Institution, Wesleyan University, and Stanford University, the small, invitation-only symposium included museum curators and academic experts in the field of firearms history; a publication will follow in the 2017 *Journal of Technology and Culture*. Hlebinsky hosts a symposium in 2017 at the Center that is a direct outgrowth of this gathering.

Charles R. Preston, PhD, the Center's Willis McDonald IV Senior Curator of Natural Science for the Draper Natural History Museum, completed the eighth year of his long-term study of ecology and population dynamics of **golden eagles and other raptors in the sagebrush-steppe biome of the Bighorn Basin**. The East Yellowstone Raptor Ecology Initiative (EYRI) has garnered international attention and continues to attract funding from both public and private sources. Preston's studies are increasingly important as rules are formed regarding acceptable mortality for golden eagles at wind farms. This study is linked to concurrent studies in Yellowstone and west of the Park. Two peer-reviewed articles await publication in the *Journal of Raptor Research*, and the team is co-authoring additional articles with colleagues at other institutions and organizations. A permanent exhibit in the Draper will highlight this ongoing research.

Plains Indian Museum Curator Rebecca West served on a panel at Central Wyoming College with Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone tribal members following the first public airing of ***What Was Ours*** on WyomingPBS. The film follows Arapaho and Shoshone tribal members to the archives of Chicago's Field Museum as they seek to bring ancestral objects back to the Wind River Indian Reservation. Audience questions for West, many from Wind River tribal members, sought information about the Center's Indian collections, museum policies and ethics, and information on the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

acquisitions

Henry Kirke Brown (American, 1814–1886)
Choosing the Arrow
 1849, bronze, 22 x 11.5 x 5.5 inches
 William E. Weiss Memorial Fund purchase

Henry Kirke Brown's *Choosing the Arrow* was the first bronze sculpture cast in America and stood as an important precedent for later depictions of American Indians in bronze. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and the Amon Carter Museum are among other American museums who have one of the twenty casts that were made of this rare sculpture; the whereabouts of only nine are known.



James Bama (American, b. 1926)
Buffalo Bill
 1996, oil on panel, 18 x 18 inches
 Gift of Trustee Emeritus Donald W. Griffin in memory of his wife, Kriss Griffin



The Center holds the most important collection in the world of art depicting Buffalo Bill. This painting complements the wide variety of depictions of the celebrated frontier hero by artists ranging from Frederic Remington and Rosa Bonheur to Thom Ross and Michael Scott.

Among our acquisitions in 2016:



James Prosek (American, b. 1975)
American bison (Bison bison), Yellowstone – Wyoming
 2014, watercolor on hand-dyed paper, 24 x 28 inches



James Prosek
Yellowstone Composition No. 1
 2016, mixed media on wood panel, 120 x 120 inches
 William E. Weiss Memorial Fund purchase

Both paintings were commissioned for the *Invisible Boundaries: Exploring Yellowstone's Great Animal Migrations* exhibition which debuted at the Center in June 2016.



Bently Spang (b. 1960), *Probable Bag*, 2015, mixed media, Plains Indian Museum Acquisitions Fund

Bently Spang (b. 1960)

Probable Bag

2015, mixed media

Plains Indian Museum

Acquisitions Fund

The title is a play on the traditional “possible bag” for holding personal possessions. While the traditional bag was made of tanned hide embellished with beads or quillwork, Spang’s bag is constructed of color photographs, bound together. *Probable Bag* was inspired by Spang’s time at the Center as an artist-in-residence in 2015, and is so-named because his ancestors “probably” roamed the areas pictured in the photos, considering the area their homeland.

1878 Colt pearl-handled, double-action extended barrel pistol. Donated by Paul D., Lisa, and Desireé Hoffman in memory of Paul’s son Fred “Fritz” Hoffman

William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody gave the pistol to James Calvin “The Kid” Nichols in 1905. Inscribed. Paul D. Hoffman is Kid Nichols’s grandson.

The Draper Natural History Museum’s Raptor Experience

received three birds in 2016: short-eared owl, **Amelia**; **Jade**, a bald eagle; and **Remington**, a northern saw-whet owl. All Raptor Experience birds have been deemed non-releaseable by State and Federal authorities due to permanent injury or because they were orphaned before learning necessary survival skills.



Amelia



Remington



Jade

Alexander Phimister Proctor

(1860–1950)

Elk #4 (The Challenge)

1899, date copyrighted, Roman

Bronze Works, bronze

Q Street Buffalo

1912, date copyrighted, cast 1913

or after, Gorham Co. New York

Founders, bronze

Buckaroo

1914, date modeled, Roman Bronze

Works, bronze

Several other plasters, works on paper, photographs, paintings, and archival material are included in this major gift from the Alexander Phimister Proctor Museum and Sandy & Sally Church.

Heiser-Keystone silver parade

saddle, ca. 1950s

Leather, sterling silver, gold plate, iron

Donated by Floyd Meads

The saddle belonged to former Utah governor Scott M. Matheson (1977–1985), among others, and has been used in many parades, including Utah’s Days of 47 Parade, one of the largest in the country.

people

When I tell people where I work, they say, ‘Oh wow, really?’ I feel very fortunate to have had such an opportunity.

– Sylvia Huber

STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

Sylvia Huber

Sylvia Huber was tired from the bus ride all the way from Rapid City, South Dakota, for her Saturday interview at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in the spring of 1985. “I remember Peter [Hassrick, then Executive Director, now Director Emeritus and Senior



Scholar] asking if I needed light, and I was so confused by the question that I just looked at him. Then he clarified that the offices didn’t have

windows, and wanted to know if that would bother me.” Huber laughs in her office with a long, skinny window in the corner, one of just a handful in the building. “It took me thirty years, but I finally got a window!”

That first job, as curatorial secretary for two museums and the education department, began a long and varied career. “I also was the one-person graphics department, which of course meant something completely different than it does today,” she says.

Other roles included secretary to the executive and assistant directors,

as well as the Board of Trustees. In 1998, Huber felt she was ready for a change. Over the next six years, Sylvia worked at her husband’s print brokering business in Cody and opened a print shop in Billings with two partners. Living and working in two places became too much, and she decided to return to Cody full time. A job in the Center’s registration office, while only part-time, sounded like fun, and so in 2004, she came back. “I learned a lot and started to work in Collections also. I was taught how to fit custom-built crates for specific objects and pack them. I acted as courier on trips within the U.S., and to Paris and Italy. It was a great experience.”

In late 2014, her former boss, Peter Hassrick, needed help with his many projects and scholarly publications; she accepted her current position of Research Assistant. “Peter is great to work for, and I’m always learning from him. I love what I’m doing.”

Of course, Sylvia has seen many changes over the years at the Center. The biggest one is its size, both in terms of the number of museums and the number of employees. She laments that she no longer knows everyone as well as she did in the early days, but says it’s “fabulous” to work in a place

that has art, history, archaeology, and education. “There’s always something of interest happening.

“When I tell people where I work, they say, ‘Oh wow, really?’ I feel very fortunate to have had such an opportunity.”

.....

Volunteers are integral to the success of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. These generous members of our community contribute their time and expertise to help with tasks ranging from filing to research.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

Sally Disque

The Draper Natural History Museum Raptor Experience, which presents programs on western raptors featuring live birds, relies heavily on volunteers. According to Assistant Curator Melissa Hill, manager of the raptor program, “we literally could not provide this program for our guests without volunteers.”

The Raptor Experience provides homes for several birds that have been severely injured or orphaned, and would not be able to survive in the wild. Both the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Wyoming



Sally Disque with Kateri, the Golden Eagle.

Game and Fish Department approve permits that designate the Center as a raptor education facility, attesting to the excellent living conditions provided for the birds.

Sally Disque, a retired teacher, was asked if she'd be interested in volunteering with the raptor program after she came to see the birds four days in a row.

Disque says she thought her work would be limited to cleaning cages. Instead, on her first day of training she learned how to tie a one-handed quick-release knot that attaches the bird's leash to the glove on the handler's "perch" hand. In her second training session, she actually held a bird. "Our training was awesome," she says. "The staff and other volunteers are so friendly and helpful – there's a great spirit about everything."

Raptor Experience volunteers invest a great deal of time learning how to handle their charges. It takes bi-weekly 60- to 90-minute sessions for up to six weeks for volunteers to learn to handle their first bird; they must train with all the birds, acting as perches during educational

presentations. They also learn detailed information about each species so they are prepared for the many questions visitors have.

Hill says visitors are surprised to find live birds in a museum and love the opportunity to see them up close — thanks to volunteers!

.....



IN MEMORIAM: Joe Medicine Crow (1913–2016)

The remarkable Joe Medicine Crow left this earth on April 3, 2016, at the age of 102. He was a founding advisory board member for the

acclaimed Plains Indian Museum and Honorary Trustee of the Center. The Buffalo Bill Center of the West was but one of the many organizations upon which Joe left his imprint.

Joe, as he was affectionately known, received many accolades during his lifetime for his exceptional achievements, including war chief of the Crow Nation upon accomplishing the four deeds necessary to earn that title in World War II, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. But the real sadness so many felt at his passing had much more to do with his personal qualities of kindness, wisdom, and humor. A regular at the annual Plains Indian Museum Powwow through the last year of his life, Joe maintained his deep connection to the Center even after his centennial birthday. Prince Albert II of Monaco was visibly moved by an honor song Joe sang during the Prince's 2013 visit to the Center.

We are honored to have had the benefit of Joe's commitment for so many years. Thank you, Joe, and may the many blessings you bestowed in this life be repaid to you in the next.

partners & awards

The Buffalo Bill Center of the West is fortunate to work with many partners to accomplish our mission to “inspire, educate, and engage global audiences through an authentic experience with the America West.” Exhibitions, scholarship, and object loans are some of the important ways we collaborate with other institutions.

COMMENTS



“Boy, do the Americans know how to do a museum!”

“So much in one place!”

“Smithsonian Museums’ caliber of collections...it’s amazing”

FROM THE CENTER’S GUEST BOOK:

“Breathtaking!!”

“Wow!!!”

“5th visit! Love this museum!”

“Fantastic museum. I keep coming back!”

“Phenomenal experience!”

“Brilliant! Well done.”

“Absolutely superb.”

“The museum just continues to improve, we always enjoy it so much. Thank you!”

Partners

SOME OF OUR PARTNERS IN 2016:

Ball State University
Robert Enteen, PhD
Gilcrease Museum
Joslyn Art Museum
Microsoft in Education
National Geographic Society
Palm Springs Art Museum
Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
St. Labre Indian Catholic High School
Smithsonian Institution
Tacoma Art Museum
United States Department of State
Western Landowners Alliance
Yale University
Yellowstone National Park

Skype in the Classroom with Megan Smith



Awards

Ashley Hlebinsky, the Robert W. Woodruff Curator, Cody Firearms Museum, was recognized as the **Grits Gresham Shooting Sports Communicator of the Year**. The award, announced at the annual SHOT Show in Las Vegas in January 2017, is bestowed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation and the Professional Outdoor Media Association. In announcing the award, NSSF president Steve Sanetti cited Hlebinsky's success in reaching new audiences through social media.

The Center of the West was awarded the **2016 TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence** for the fourth year running, and recognized as the No. 1 attraction in Cody.

TripAdvisor also recognized the Center as Wyoming's No. 1 **"Top Museums Worth Traveling For."**

The *Painted Journeys: The Art of John Mix Stanley* exhibition catalogue won a **Western Heritage Award for the Best Western Art Book of 2016**, presented by the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

The book *Wyoming Grasslands* (University of Oklahoma Press) was named a **finalist for the 2016 High Plains Book Award**. Frank H. Goodyear, Jr. and Draper Natural History Museum Senior Curator Charles R. Preston authored the book, with photography from Michael P. Berman and William S. Sutton.

Microsoft in Education designated the Center a "master partner" for its *Skype in the Classroom* program. Our success using Skype technology led Microsoft to name the Center a Skype Guide. Our educators will help others effectively use Skype to interact with audiences wherever they may be. Center staff presented lessons to nearly 20,000 students in 46 states and 12 countries from New Zealand to Cyprus.

True West magazine named the Cody Firearms Museum the **third best Top Western Museum** for 2016. *True West* also named the Whitney Western Art Museum as the **second best Western Art Museum**.



Bruce Sauers,
Director of
Revenue &
Enterprise and
Lynn Rodgers,
Chief Financial
Officer

financial report

Fiscal year ended December 31, 2016

A **strong performance** in earned revenue, an **increase in contributions** received and pledged, controlled operating expenses, and improved stock market returns all contributed to the Center finishing 2016 in **sound financial position**.

Earned revenue has been a focus of efforts for the last six years with a **42 percent increase in gross profit** from 2010 to 2016, from \$3.1 million to \$4.4 million.

Earned Revenue

Most major areas of earned income were up last year. Admissions revenue increased 3.6 percent, reflecting a \$1 increase in some ticket prices, while the number of paid visitors was flat. Gift shop sales increased 4.9 percent. Our kitchen was closed for renovation the first of December in order to be completed by late spring, thereby missing the holiday party season and contributing to a 3.9 percent decline in food and beverage sales.

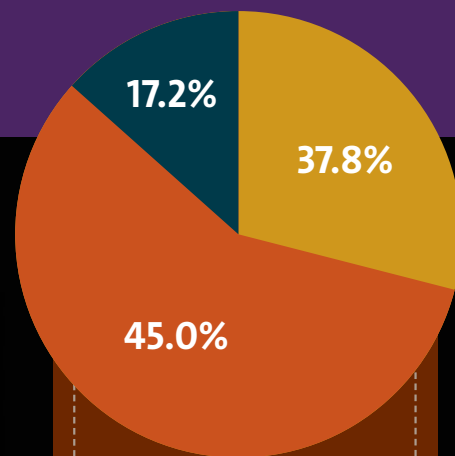
The new kitchen will allow us to take advantage of the 200 seats added by the Kuyper Dining Pavilion, completed in June of 2016, increasing our food and beverage earnings potential going forward. The Kuyper Pavilion is the new home of the popular Dan Miller Cowboy Music Revue, playing six nights a week during peak season, contributing \$154,000 toward top-line revenue. Other revenue was earned from traveling exhibitions, behind the scenes experiences for tour groups, and

trail rides and other summer programs. Our Centennial in 2017 provides opportunities for additional revenue. We are partnering with Navy Arms and Winchester Firearms to make a special Centennial Model of the famed Winchester 1873 lever-action rifle. A special coffee table book features photographs of some of our most highly prized objects from each museum and the library, along with background information.

Donor Funding

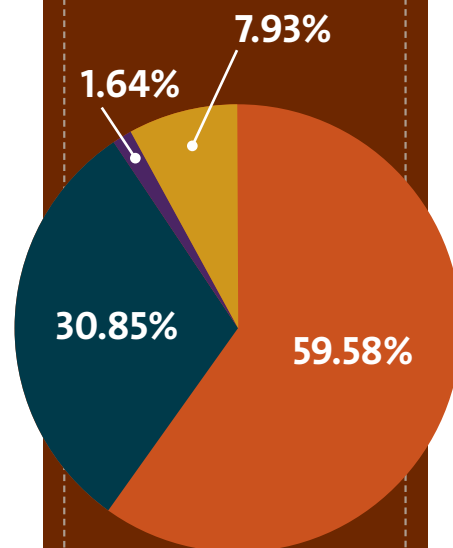
Donor gifts increased substantially due to the launch of the “quiet phase” of a \$50 million comprehensive campaign. Many individuals have committed significant gifts.

Please note that the following numbers are unaudited. 2016 audited financial statements will be available on our website June, 2017: www.centerofthewest.org/about-us/annual-reports/.



2016 OPERATING SUPPORT (Budget Basis)

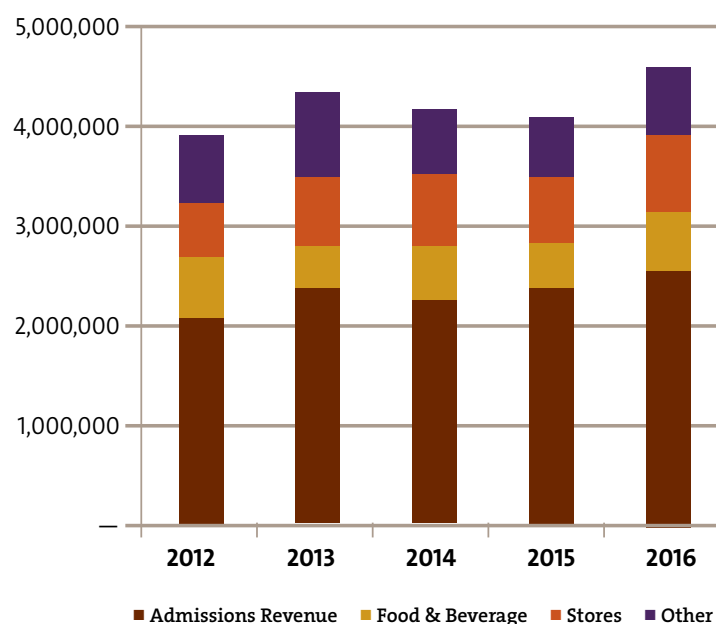
- Earned revenue
- Donor funding and grants
- Withdrawal from endowment



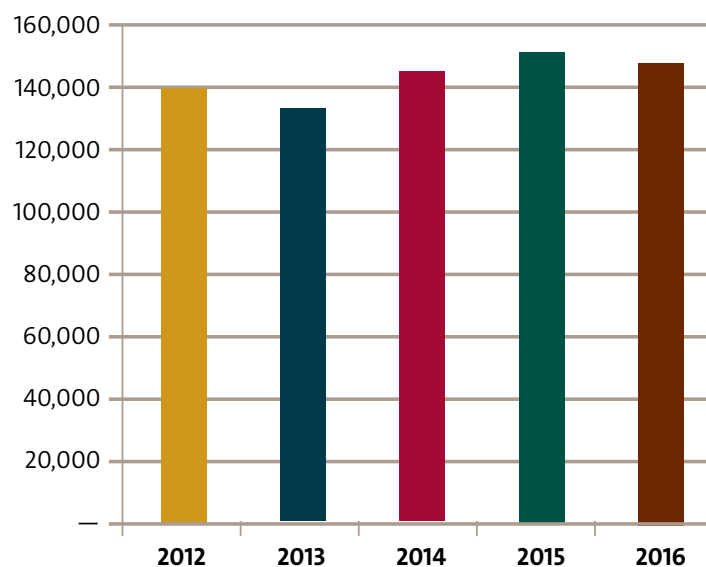
2016 EXPENSES (budget basis; excludes capital projects)

- Personnel
- Operating expenses
- Capital expenditures
- Programs and exhibitions

TOTAL EARNED REVENUES



PAID ATTENDANCE



Financial Activity – GAAP basis (in thousands)

	2016	2015
REVENUES		
Earned revenues	5,849	5,563
Contributions and grants	12,292	10,418
Investment income (loss)	3,013	(2,480)
Total revenue	21,154	13,501
EXPENSES		
Personnel	6,796	6,397
Programs	5,258	5,300
Capital expenses and acquisitions	1,613	1,710
Total expenses	13,667	13,407
Increase in net assets from operations	7,487	112

Financial Position (in thousands)

	2016	2015
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,281	843
Accounts and interest receivable	320	505
Inventories	851	747
Prepaid expenses	220	125
Contributions receivable	3,267	3,407
Investments	51,867	48,140
Property and equipment, net	32,691	31,351
Collections	88,670	87,583
Total Assets	180,167	172,701
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	450	334
Note payable		137
Net assets	179,717	172,230
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	180,167	172,701

endowment report

Fiscal year ended December 31, 2016

The Center's endowment objective is to produce a long-term total rate of return with an acceptable level of risk and sufficient to achieve realistic growth. Endowment assets are managed so as to provide a stable source of funds to support the ongoing operation and activities of the Center.

\$3 million in gifts and realized bequests were added to the endowment in 2016, with the net investment return coming in at 5.6 percent. The Center withdraws amounts from the endowment annually to support programs and operations, generally between 4.5 percent and 5.0 percent of a 12-quarter average of values.

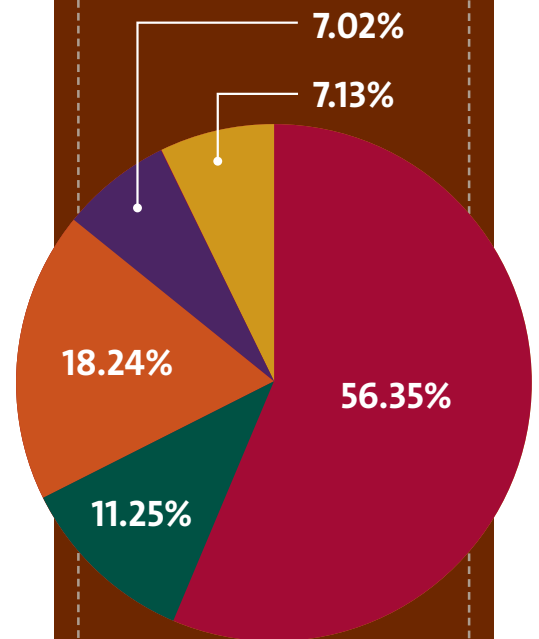
Building the endowment is one of the three major fundraising priorities of the New Century Campaign.

ENDOWMENT PORTFOLIO

45,410,809	Endowment, 12/31/15
(1,983,000)	Funds withdrawn to support operations
3,609,626	Investment results
2,835,446	Funds contributed*
49,872,881	Endowment, 12/31/16

Endowment portfolio values do not include agency funds managed by the Wyoming Community Foundation or short-term investments, both of which are included in "Endowment Values Over Time" on the next page.

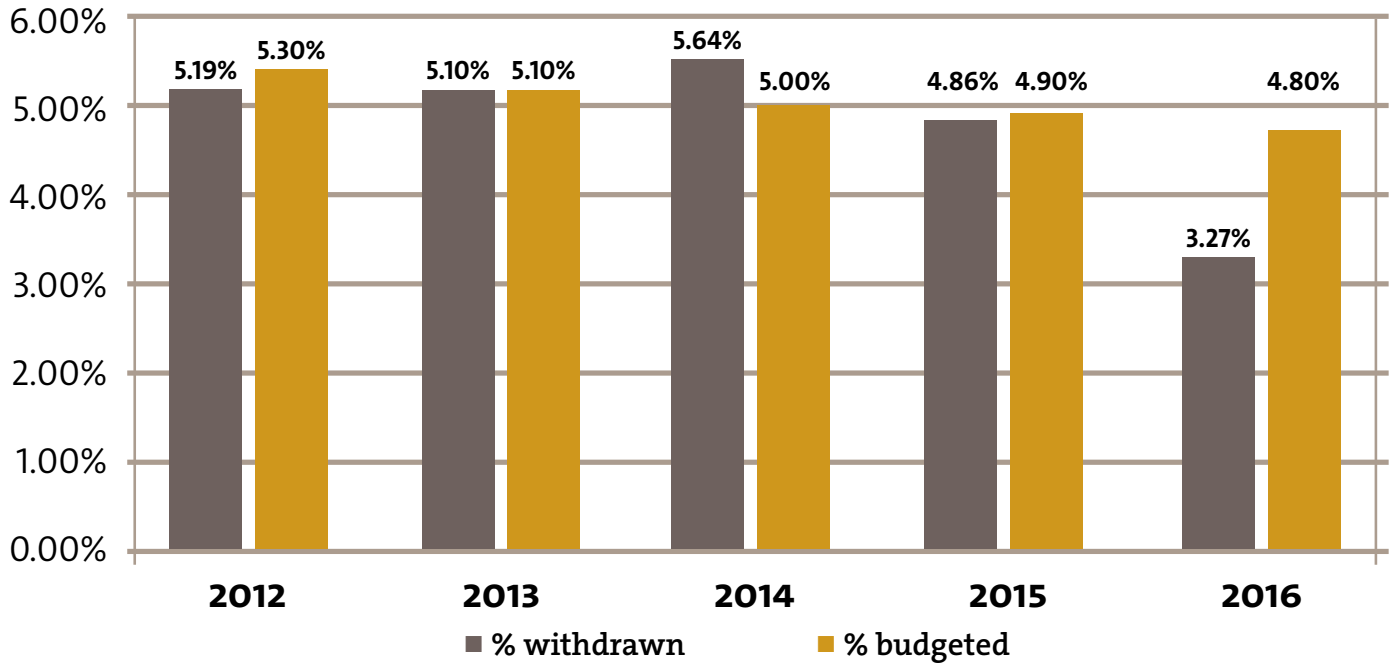
** Does not include a large gift received at year-end that was not transferred into endowment portfolio until January 2017.*



**ASSET ALLOCATION
AS OF 12-31-16)**

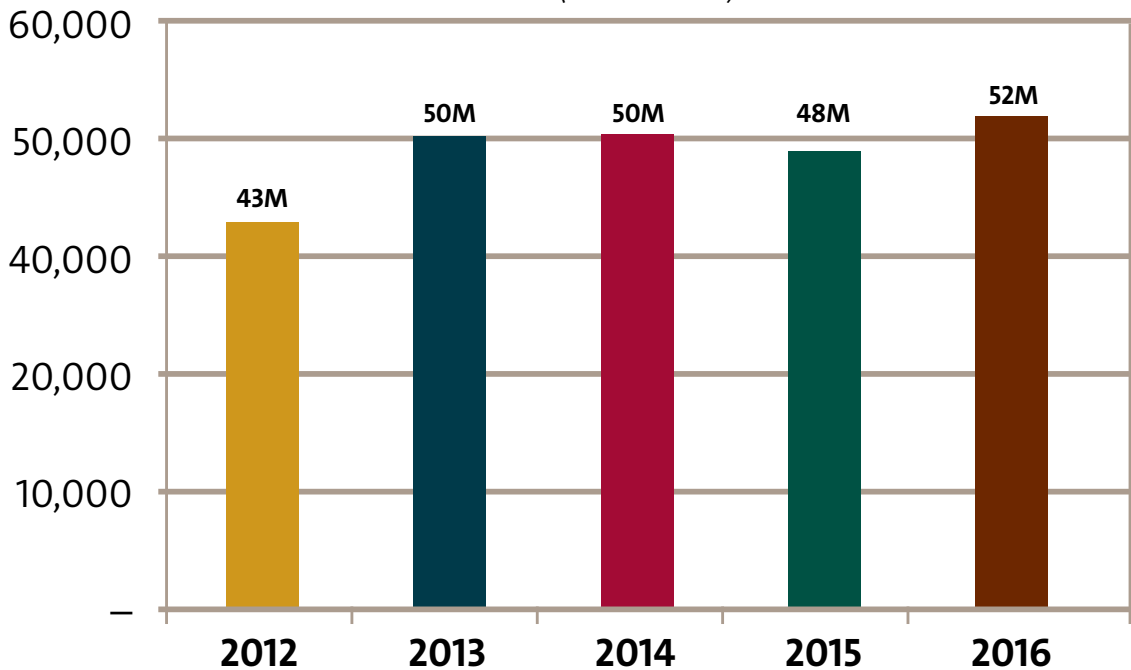


ENDOWMENT WITHDRAWALS TO SUPPORT OPERATIONS



ENDOWMENT VALUE OVER TIME

(in thousands)



2016 audited financial statements will be available on our website June, 2017:

www.centerofthewest.org/about-us/annual-reports/



membership

The Center of the West has members in all fifty states and eleven countries, reflecting a passionate group of supporters. Special programs are offered to members throughout the year. In 2016 we invited members to:

COFFEE & CURATORS PROGRAMS (SEVEN)—A Saturday morning series that takes members behind the scenes with staff at each of the five museums along with the McCracken Research Library and the Conservation Department.

BUFFALO GALS LUNCHEONS (TWO)—Speakers were Jenny Nichols, filmmaker for the *Invisible Boundaries* project; and Molly Kline Moore, *Ranger Reflections: What it's really like to work in Yellowstone National Park*.

EXHIBITIONS OPENING RECEPTION

- *Yellowstone Discovered: William Henry Jackson's Lost Prints Reveal the Park for America*
- *GLOCK Makes History: The Birth of the Polymer Handgun Market*
- *Invisible Boundaries: Exploring Yellowstone's Great Animal Migrations*

MEMBER TRIP TO THE BRINTON MUSEUM IN BIG HORN, WYOMING.



development

2016 was a pivotal year for the Development Department at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. In the last quarter of 2015, the Board of Trustees agreed to embark on a comprehensive fundraising campaign to mark our Centennial in 2017, and the Department shifted into high gear to meet the \$50 million goal of the *New Century Campaign*.

The Center is blessed with devoted supporters from across the country. Implementing the *New Century Campaign* has given us the opportunity to visit many of these long-time members and donors, and share our vision and strategy for how we will continue to tell the compelling stories of the American West. Preparing for an active, growing future, and meeting the challenges of the next 100 years will take significant resources. Our very first gifts to the Campaign have come from our volunteer leadership, with many making substantial commitments.

The many donors to the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, both individual and institutional, amply illustrate that the Spirit of the American West is alive and well.

The following list includes donors who made outright gifts, confirmed future commitments, and/or made gifts-in-kind during 2016. Our heartfelt thanks to all our donors! You truly make a difference.



Kelly Jensen
Director of Development

CENTENNIAL SOCIETY \$100,000 and above

Fran & Lenox Baker
Gordon Barrows
The Alexander Bodini Foundation
Jack & Ann Caldwell
Paul & Judy Cali
Sandy & Sally Church
Barron Collier II
Geraldine W. & Robert J.
Dellenback Foundation
Nancy-Carroll Draper
Charitable Foundation

William C. Garlow
Google Grants
Thomas & Elizabeth Grainger
S.K. Johnston Family Fund
Marv & Jane Kaiser
Mr. & Mrs. Peter W. Kuyper
David & Alexia Leuschen
Mr. & Mrs. Forrest E. Mars Jr.
Patrick & Hilary McDonald
Carol McMurry & Patrick Spieles
Floyd Meads and Matthew Meads

DEVELOPMENT

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Reid Murchison
National Endowment for the
Humanities
James E. Nielson Family
Jim Nielson & Anne Young
Rusty & Deborah Rokita
Maggie & Dick Scarlett
Shiebler Family Foundation
Al & Ann Simpson
Meredith & John Sullivan and
The Homestead Foundation
Naoma Tate & the Family
of Hal Tate
The Tucker Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. A.R. Walje
Ed & Nancy Webster
Lisa & William M. Wirthlin Jr.

SPIRIT OF THE AMERICAN WEST CIRCLE **\$25,000 - \$99,999**

A. Phimister Proctor Museum
Lynn & Andy Andrews
Dan & Mary Armour
Bureau of Land Management
Cody Country Chamber of
Commerce
The William H. Donner Foundation
Marilyn B. Dunn
Bill Foxley
Mr. & Mrs. Walter F. Goodman Jr.
Donald W. Griffin in memory of his
wife, Kriss Griffin
John J. Hayes
Institute of Museum & Library
Services
Wally & Donna Johnson
Willis McDonald IV
Susan & Rip McIntosh
National Endowment for the Arts
Olin Corporation Charitable Trust
Park County Travel Council

Mitch & Alice Rouse
Sage Creek Ranch
Buz & Judy Sellers
Walter C. Snyder
Lynda & Leighton Steward
Mike & Jane Sullivan
Gretchen Swanson Family
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Sam & Marshall Webb
Bill & Robin Weiss

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George & Claudine Dillman
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Anne & Charles Duncan
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McMurry Library Endowment Fund
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Pahaska Company - Robert &
Angela Coe, Jim & Anne Hayes
Alonzo "Butch" Paige
J.D. & Elizabeth Radakovich

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Stephen M. Seay Foundation
Sinclair Oil Corporation
Union Pacific Railroad
William E. Weiss Foundation
Wells Fargo Bank
Winchester Repeating Arms

BUFFALO BILL CIRCLE **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

AmericInn Lodge & Suites of Cody
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Episcopal Church
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BNSF Railway Foundation
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Michael Coleman
CZ-USA
Jim & Ginger Dager
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Robert Model Charitable Foundation
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National Film Preservation Foundation
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Terry & Claudia Winchell –
Fighting Bear Antiques
Winchester Arms Collectors Association
David & Susie Work
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Wyoming Arts Council
Wyoming Humanities Council

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Jerry Asher
Bighorn Medical Center
Jorge J. Carnicero
Suzanna W. Cody & Ron Hills
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The Compass Group
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Astrid & Kip Forbes in honor of Naoma Tate
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Teresa B. Ullstrup
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Y-Text Corporation
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Gordie & Terri Allison
Christopher Lane Anderson
Sue Anschutz-Rodgers
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Arnold
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Louis Beinhauer III and J. Steven Beinhauer
The Best of the West
Blair Hotels
Blue Book Publications Inc.
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The Duke of Buccleuch
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Rebecca West & Chuck Hulbert
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Karla Williams
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volunteer leadership

With five museums and a research library, the Buffalo Bill Center of the West is a cultural organization that appeals to various constituencies and calls for a diverse board with disparate experience, interest, and connections.

The Center is fortunate to have a Board of Trustees that is national in scope, with interests ranging from art to firearms. The one thing they have in common is a love of the American West. Each museum, along with

the McCracken Research Library and the Interpretive Education Division, also has an advisory board, made up of both trustees and advisors sought out for their expertise and perspectives.

In all, our volunteer leadership numbers more than one hundred individuals. We are truly fortunate to have so many passionate and talented people dedicated to the success of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West.

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Mary Anne Dingus
Marilyn B. Dunn
Mary B. Flitner
Victor R. Gaines
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Thomas P. Grainger
George H. Joest Jr.
Robert Model
Mary Ann Perkins
Robert P. Radecki
Stephen L. Sanetti
Samuel B. Webb Jr.

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J. Laurence Sheerin

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Lindsay J. Garlow
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William N. Shiebler

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Ann Chambers Noble
B. Byron Price
Harold C. Ramser Jr.
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Peter K. Simpson
C. Edward Webster II

EMERITUS

Forrest Fenn
Marge M. Goppert

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Arthur Amiotte
Robert D. Coe
David L. Ferris Sr.
Adeline C. Fox
Garrett E. Goggles
Marilyn C. Hudson
Taylor R.M. Keen
Billie Jo Kipp
Jay E. Nielson
Harold C. Ramser Jr.
Birdie Real Bird
Rusty R. Rokita
Mitchell S. Rouse
Dilworth P. Sellers
Gordon Dee Smith

EMERITUS

Joseph Medicine Crow

WHITNEY WESTERN ART MUSEUM

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Laura Proctor Ames
Laura Collier
William C. Foxley
Margaret Frère
Frank H. Goodyear Jr.
Carlene M. Lebous
Patrick R. McDonald
Sue L. Simpson Gallagher
Michelle M. Sullivan
James G. Taggart
Marylou Whitney
Lisa F. Wirthlin

EMERITUS

Phimister P. Church
Carol C. Clark
Leverett S. Miller
Nancy D. Petry

■ New in 2016
■ Resigned in 2016
■ Deceased in 2016

