

Museum Advisory Board

May 21, 2026

4:00 p.m. at the Greeley History Museum

This meeting is held in person at the physical location

You can provide public input/public comment for this meeting by emailing your comments to Chris Bowles at [Chris.Bowles@greeleygov.com](mailto:Chris.Bowles@greeleygov.com) or call 970-350-9218.

Comments received up to an hour before the meeting will be read into the record at the appropriate time.

Agenda:

Roll Call: Marcus Embry (Chair), George Junne, Emma Pena-McCleave, Nancy Masimer, Scott Chartier, Anne Masterson, Donna Hendren, Annareli Morales.

1. Approval of the April 2026 Museum Advisory Board minutes.
2. Reports: (10 minutes)
  - CPRD Report
  - Museums Report
  - Additional Staff Report
    - o Exhibits
    - o Collections
    - o Historic Sites
    - o Education/Interpretation
3. Friends of the Greeley Museums Report
4. Task Force Reports (10 minutes):
  - Experience Team
  - Acquisitions Task Force
5. Old Business (10 minutes):
6. New Business (10 minutes):
7. Adjournment

Next meeting June 18, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at the Greeley History Museum

## Minutes

### Museum Advisory Board

April 17, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

1. The meeting was called to order by Emma Pena-McCleave at p.m.

Board Present: Emma Pena-McCleave, Nancy Masimer, Donna Hendren, Annareli Morales, Anne Masterson, George Junne.

Board Absent: Scott Chartier, Marcus Embry.

Staff Present: Kristjana Eyjolfsson, Geoff Havens, Katie Ross, Megan Weiler, Chris Bowles, Brecklyn Everhart.

2. Approval of the March 2026 minutes.

Motion to approve the March 2026 minutes by Anne Masterson and seconded by Donna Hendren.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Reports:

- CPRD Report:

- Discussion of current departmental priorities, including ongoing budget reduction planning. CPRD cuts amount to a 17% reduction, with Museums at 27%.
- Board consolidation updates remain under discussion.
- City Council presentation schedule and public release timeline for budget information will be shared once finalized.
- State of the City event recap provided.

- Museums Report:

- Free general admission continues to increase attendance year-over-year.
- Increased public visibility noted through partnerships and programming.
- Recent Holocaust presentation hosted approximately 55 attendees.
- Concurrent children's programming brought significant youth participation.
- Preparations are underway for Centennial Village programming and seasonal operations.

- Exhibits Report:

- Upcoming exhibit: Home News, developed through archival research of 1976 Greeley Tribune coverage. This exhibit is curated by Chris Bowles.
- Public reception and presentation planning is forthcoming.

- Collections Report:
  - Due to anticipated staffing reductions, a moratorium on acquisitions has been enacted.
  - The reductions will eliminate all Registrar staff for the foreseeable future.
  - Exceptions will be considered only through Acquisition Committee approval. Existing commitments and select institutional agreements will continue such as deerfield items.
  
- Education and Interpretation:
  - Field trip season is underway with strong participation from local schools.
  - History Fest planning is active.
  - Volunteers are being recruited for field trips and special events.
  
- Historic Sites:
  - Accessibility improvement project completed with replacement of deteriorating paving stones.
  - Roof and preservation work scheduled for Montford House.
  - Additional maintenance and restoration projects are ongoing.
  - Preparations underway for Baby Animal Days.
  
- 4. Friends of the Greeley Museums Report:
  - Friends organization continues governance restructuring.
  - Privacy policy development is underway as foundation for additional organizational policies.
  - Exploration of CRM software for donor/member management continues.
  - Future formal Memorandum of Understanding with museum system anticipated.
  - Long-term objective remains potential reconstitution as charitable foundation.
  
- 5. Task Force Reports:
  - Experience Team:
    - Committee did not meet this month. Future meetings will focus on operational forecasting and service-level planning.

- Acquisitions Team:
  - Due to budget cuts and the moratorium, the committee will meet as needed.

Reviewed and approved select historical artifact donations, including:

- Selected garments from Sarah Frances Gilbert collection
- Historical firearms and related artifacts connected to Benjamin Franklin Golan
- Historic city flag
- 1944 Coca-Cola bottle
- Lester Music accordion collection
- Additional local historical signage and objects pending further research
- Six historical quilts previously reconsidered; two quilts were accepted into the collection
- Greeley Kennel Club historical materials and presentation project, which remains under continued review

#### 6. Old Business:

- Motion regarding board consolidation

Motion that the Greeley Museum Advisory board formally opposes consolidation with the UCCC board and the Art Commission made by Donna Hendren and seconded by Annareli Morales.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### 7. New Business:

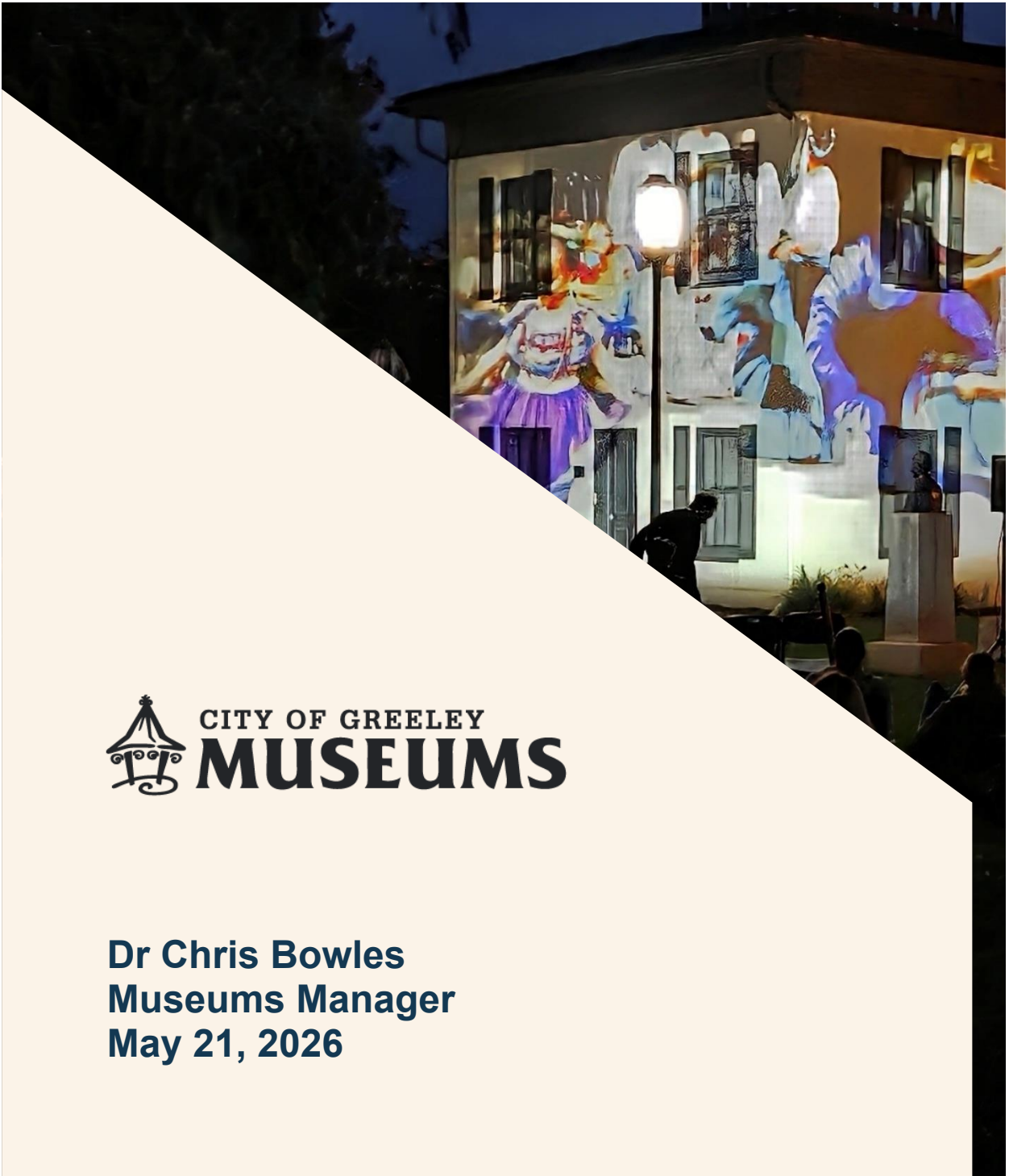
- Possible Museum Service Reductions late 2026/2027:
  - Staff presented preliminary information regarding significant proposed budget reductions affecting museum operations.
  - Discussion included:
    - Potential reduction of museum operating hours
    - Possible reduction in special events and educational programming

- Potential staff layoffs
    - Suspension of research center services
    - Reduced public access and programming capacity
    - Long-term impacts to collections stewardship and institutional sustainability
  - Board members expressed serious concern regarding:
    - Long-term rebuilding challenges
    - Loss of institutional knowledge through staffing reductions
    - Reduced public and community access
  - Staff noted:
    - Budget proposals remain under review
    - Public presentations to City Council begin in May
    - Community input opportunities will follow public release of budget proposals
- Weld County Commissioners Outreach:
    - Board discussed pursuing county-level partnership opportunities. Updates included that initial commissioner outreach has begun. There is a potential phased partnership approach under consideration, and any future formal presentations may be scheduled with Weld County Commissioners.
  - Artist Residency Program:
    - Staff announced launch of the museum’s summer Artist Residency pilot program at Centennial Village. The program would include an artist stipend with the intent on creating Historical interpretation-based art. Applications for artists is currently open.
  - Fort Lupton Museum Collaboration
    - Annareli reported productive outreach meeting with Fort Lupton Historical Museum staff. Discussion with staff included promotional brochure exchange, potential future collaborative museum partnerships across Weld County and a possibility of shared exhibitions and historical programming.

Meeting adjourned 5:10 p.m.

Next meeting May 21,2026, at 4:00 p.m. at the Greeley History Museum.

# March/April 2026 City of Greeley Museums Report



**Dr Chris Bowles**  
**Museums Manager**  
**May 21, 2026**

## Manager's Report for March/April 2026

It's been a bitter-sweet two months. This combined March and April report contains great and sad news in equal measure.

Beginning with the good; we had an amazing Baby Animal Days weekend thanks to the hard work of CVM staff! Hundreds of people turned up to see the return of Cinnamon the cow and animals provided by FFA students from Greeley West High School.

We also opened a new exhibit that I'm particularly proud of, *Home News: A Greeley View of the Nation's Centennial*. This is my first ever exhibit which I worked on for over a year. My HUGE thanks to the patience and guidance of Holly, Britannia, Katie and Miranda who all made sure I didn't mess it up!

Prior to recent budget work, I also led staff through a fun exercise for mission and vision making. I created a Dungeons & Dragons style "Quest" where staff worked through characters to vanquish monsters by finding the proper spells. This work was fun, exciting, and most of all brought us a little closer together. This was intended to lay the foundation for long range planning which is now on hold.

Finally, Katie pulled collections access into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with the launch of a new online portal. This will allow researchers from all over the world explore our vast array of items collected over 100+ years.

Now, the sad news. I am deeply saddened to announce that JoAnna Luth Stull will soon leave us after almost 30 years of service. Through decades of tireless work, JoAnna registered thousands of precious documents and objects for the benefit of Greeley's citizens. With her retirement, and current budget pressures, we've taken the difficult decision to place a moratorium on new collection for the foreseeable future. Her retirement will create a huge hole in our

work and our hearts, but we couldn't be more excited for what lies in store for her!

Likewise, Geoff Havens is leaving us in May. His departure is another major loss for the team. In just four short years, Geoff accomplished incredible things for the museums including professionalizing our interpretive service, re-imagining our events, leading staff through often difficult operational transitions, and, maybe most of all, bringing his keen data brain into all conversations about current realities and anticipating the future. All of us are better for having had his leadership and friendship in our lives.

My last note is to reflect the uncertainty that these changes and the current budget setting for 2027 brings to our team. As reported in the press and reflected in recent Council work sessions, the 2027 budget cycle is unusual. The City faces a difficult outlook, and city departments have been asked to reduce their impact on the General Fund. The Culture, Parks and Recreation Department have been given a 17% reduction, and all divisions within it varying target reductions to meet this goal. Following our last meeting, I don't have to tell you that the impact on museums will be on of the most significant changes in 50 years. We have worked hard to meet the expectations given to us, but ultimately the decision lies with our Director. We'll of course keep you posted on what we can share as the budget setting continues over the summer.

Dr. Chris Bowles  
Museums Manager

## Staff Reports

### Exhibits (Holly Berg and Britannia Barbour)

- Britannia and Holly met with Gus, Gabe, Stephanie, and JoAnna to discuss CV 50th display in the depot.
- Britannia prepped physical objects for installation for Home News.
- Britannia designed the graphics for new West Gallery exhibit Home News
- The exhibit titled Viewfinder: Through the Lens of Time closed to the public on 4/12. The exhibits and collections teams deinstalled it over the following week, then began install for Home News: A Greeley View of the Nation's Centennial. The new exhibit, curated by Museum Manager, Chris Bowles, opened to the public on 4/24.
- Holly, Geoff, Kristjana, Katie and Chris attended the Leadership Summit on 3/11
- Holly attended an exhibit design webinar titled "EuroShop 2026 Design Trends" on 3/25.
- Holly, Katie, Geoff, Kristjana, and Chris spent much of April prepping data, creating long term plans, and attending meetings about the 2027 budget.
- On 4/30, Holly and Katie attended a 3 hour live virtual training titled "Project Management 101".

### Collections (Katie Ross, JoAnna Luth Stull, Miranda Todd, Annie Talmadge, Laura Cutler)

- In late March and April, Katie prepared items for the Home News exhibit
- Katie launched the researcher portal for the Museums database with a History Hour presentation in March.
- Katie also returned the display items from the View Finder exhibit to storage locations
- Katie and Chris did a walkthrough with COG facilities and a vendor for reviewing new humidification system plans
- Katie also helped install the Home News exhibit in April
- Miranda completed cataloguing and rehousing items in the A. B. Copeland archive
- She also began an audit of non-accessioned family files in the HEJ for improperly files collections items, which are to be removed and properly catalogued and stored
- Miranda also managed exhibits reproduction orders and patron reproduction orders in a timely fashion while also assisting weekly, sometimes daily, on-site researchers and research requests.
- Miranda assisted Kersey Museum with eight hours of research
- She also completed the 2025 Museum Scrapbook
- JoAnna Luth Stull announced her retirement at the beginning of June

## **Education and Interpretation (Kristjana Eyjólfsson, Gus Rudnick, Lilah Barth, Stephanie Work, Gabe Llanas, Rachel Walker)**

- CV and Visitor Service staff worked a very busy Baby Animal Days weekend
- Through April, they prepped for History Fest in May
- Throughout March and April, staff visited schools for Museum to You
- They also worked several field trips and special group tours.

## **Historic Sites and Facilities**

- Several projects are underway or planned at Centennial Village and Greeley History Museum including:
  - Finishing work in Shaw House following asbestos remediation
  - Work to replace an upper story outside railing on Monfort House
  - Replacement of the circular brick area between Shaw, Stevens's Reynolds and the church with ADA compliant stamped concrete made to look like brick
  - Geoff and Chris met with Rec Facilities staff and a vendor to assess repairs needed for the GHM awning

## Where Did our Visitors Come From in February, 2026?

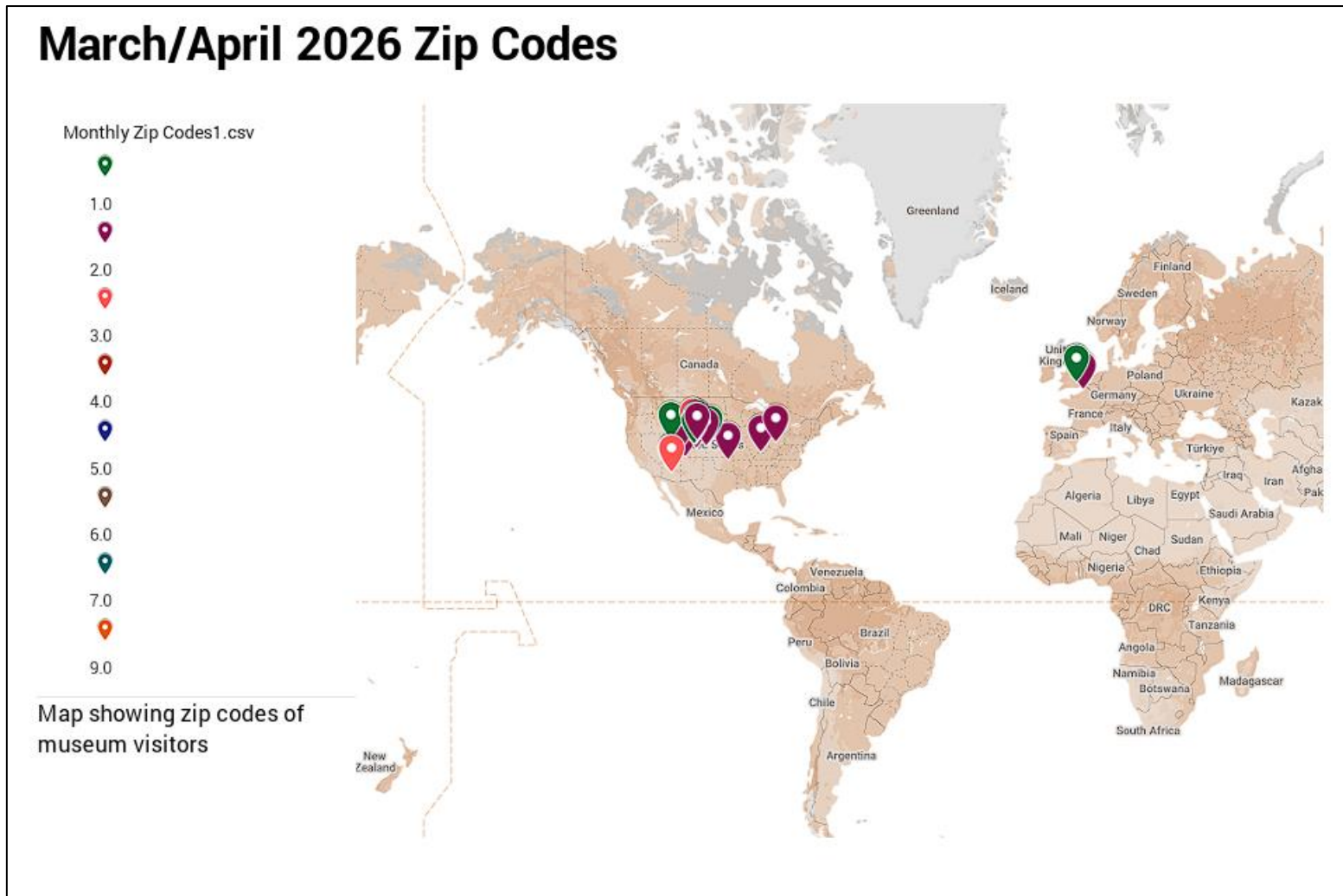


Figure 5 Map of the United States showing where museum visitors came from in March/April, 2026

# March/April 2026 Zip Codes

Monthly Zip Codes1.csv

- 1.0
- 2.0
- 3.0
- 4.0
- 5.0
- 6.0
- 7.0
- 8.0
- 9.0

Map showing zip codes of museum visitors

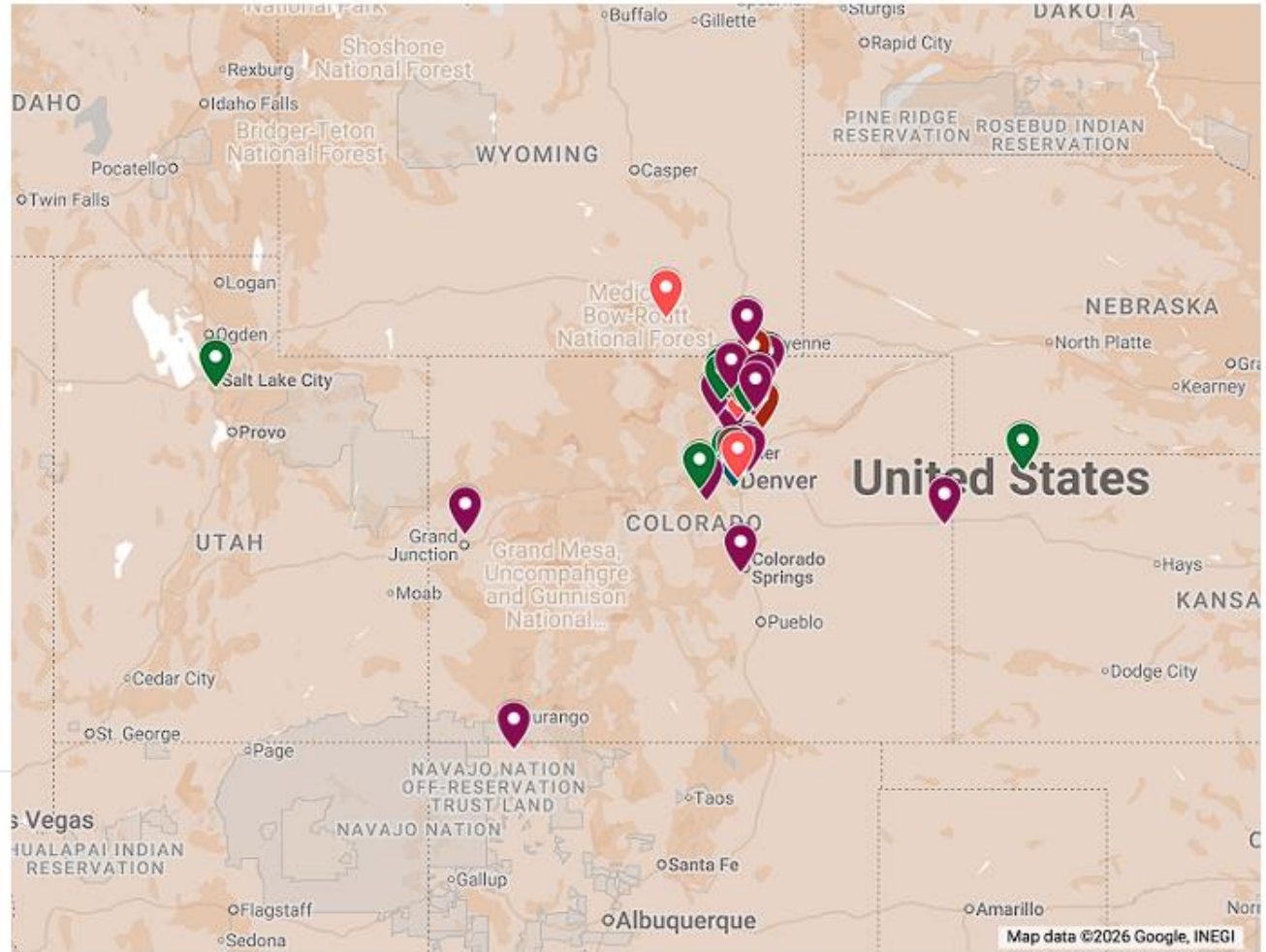


Figure 6 Map showing Colorado Front Range museum visitation in March/April, 2026

## February 2026 Museum Statistics



### Attendance and Revenue Statistics - Greeley History Museum

Statistical Categories	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025
Attendance	386	225	419
Admissions Sales <sup>1</sup>	\$422	\$35	\$1429
Store	\$1049	\$482	\$627
Research Center	\$231	\$160	\$0
Donations or Grants	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
Facilities Rentals	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue (minus grants or donations)	\$1702	\$677	\$2056

### Attendance and Revenue Statistics - Historic Sites

Statistical Categories	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025
Attendance	2617	0	2080
Admissions Sales	\$0	\$0	\$0
Store	\$1506	\$0	\$973
Donations	\$0	\$0	\$0
Special Events	\$7748	\$0	\$7813
Facilities Rentals	\$0	\$0	\$600
Combined Revenue	\$9254	\$0	\$9386

### Attendance and Revenue Statistic Totals

Statistical Categories	April 2026	March 2026	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	YTD Diff.
Combined Attendance	3003	225	3392	2886	 16%
Combined Revenue	\$10,956	\$677	\$13,232	\$14,628	 10%

<sup>1</sup> In 2026, this will only refer to group admission sales. 2025 figures represent admission sales prior to going fee free.

## Volunteer Statistics

Statistical Categories	April 2026	March 2026	2026 Total	2025 TOTAL
Volunteer Hours	365	277	1176	3661
In-Kind Equivalent (2025 Colo. Volunteer Rate @\$38.74/hr)	\$14,140	\$10,731	\$45,558	\$141,817

## Collection Interactions

Statistical Categories	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025
Number of Researchers Served	22 (7 internal, 15 external)	35 (7 internal, 28 external)	11 (2 internal, 9 external)
Virtual Collection Views	1190	659	849
Revenue (after discounts)	\$231	\$160	\$0

## Educational Reach

Statistical Categories	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025
K-12 Visits to museum	733	0	551
Museums-to-You or Outreach	279	673	1240

## Digital Exhibits and Programs

Title of Virtual Experience	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025
Beyond Suffrage Virtual Tour	12	20	39
Meeker Home Virtual Tour	89	147	320
Viewfinder Exhibit	5	12	9

<b>Title of Virtual Experience</b>	<b>April 2026</b>	<b>March 2026</b>	<b>April 2025</b>
War Comes Home Virtual Exhibit	35	16	53
Our History, Our Voice	180	177	0
Unsolved	17	19	91
Stqry	34	3	19
Exhibit-related Virtual Programs	10	0	0
Digital Use Totals:	383	394	531

### Social Media (Facebook)

<b>Statistical Categories</b>	<b>April 2026</b>	<b>March 2026</b>	<b>April 2025</b>
Posts	17	4	13
Reach	72k	41k	k
Views	156k	87.5k	161k
Top 3 Posts:	Baby Animal Days	Great Frontier; Printmaking; Axiell	Baby Animal Days; Survey; HF Volunteers