

Museum Advisory Board

July 16, 2026

4:00 p.m. at the Centennial Village 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 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, Shan Craven, Anne Masterson, Donna Hendren, Annareli Morales.

1. Introduction of Board members
2. Approval of the July 2026 Agenda.
3. Approval of the June 2026 Museum Advisory Board minutes.
4. Citizen Comment
5. Reports: (10 minutes)
 - CPRD Report
 - Museums Report
 - Additional Staff Report
 - o Exhibits
 - o Collections
 - o Historic Sites
 - o Education/Interpretation
6. Friends of the Greeley Museums Report
7. Task Force Reports (10 minutes):
 - Experience Team
 - Acquisitions Task Force
8. Old Business (10 minutes):
9. New Business (10 minutes):
 - City Council Recap
 - MAB Resolution: Regarding Future Funding
 - Update on work for the rest of the year
 - Interpretive masterplan final draft revision
10. Adjournment

Next meeting August 20, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at the Greeley History Museum

Minutes

Museum Advisory Board

May 21, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

1. The meeting was called to order by Marcus Embry at 4:00 p.m.

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

Board Absent: Scott Chartier

Staff Present: Kristjana Eyjolfsson, Katie Ross, Holly Berg, Megan Weiler, Chris Bowles, Brecklyn Everhart.

Friends of the Museum Members Present: Patti Harold

Citizens Present: Geoff Havens

2. Approval of the Agenda

It was requested to convert the planned resolutions for Geoff and Joanna into letters of appreciation. The chair placed this under New Business; the agenda itself remained unchanged and was accepted as presented.

Motion to approve the agenda made by Anne Masterson and seconded by Donna Hendren.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the May 2026 minutes.

It was suggested to add more indentation and formatting into the citizen comment section of the minutes.

Motion to approve the May 2026 minutes with the formatting changes made by Emma Pena-McCleave and seconded by George Junne

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Citizens Communication: There was no citizen comment made during this meeting.

5. Reports:

- CPRD Report: July 7th the proposed CPRD budget reductions will be presented during the city council meeting.

- **Museums Report:** Visitor spread included Guatemala and broad U.S. representation; increased traction from Denver metro and Front Range. Year-to-date attendance and revenue are down; monthly fluctuations observed. Change in operating model to free admission affects revenue; some recovery noted; last month's attendance was significantly up.
- **Exhibit Reports:** The missile site exhibit "Thirteen-Minute Warning" is being reinstalled in the east gallery; painting work is currently in progress; expected to stay until seasonal closure around end of May (Memorial Day) next year. The "Great Frontier Odyssey" exhibit has left; the original curator praised the team's work on it. Benjamin Eaton's fireplace has been successfully installed in the main gallery. "Our History, Our Voice" mezzanine exhibit is closing in September; aim to install a new exhibit by end of year to avoid a long gap. A 50th anniversary exhibit is to be displayed in the depot bathroom area by August 1.
- **Collections Report:** There was a concern raised about the moratorium on collecting, emphasizing collections as a core museum function. Board members asked if volunteers could come in and help with the collections. Volunteers currently assist with registrar backlog; acquisitions committee activity paused; some items turned away. Joanna completed and sent the travel needs reports before her retirement at the beginning of June 2026. Cataloging work done by volunteers is being caught up on.
- **Education/Interpretation:** Lilah and Chris met with Betony Coons, the new artist in residence in Slema's Studio who will work on a children's book for the museum.
- **Historic Sites:** Centennial Village has transitioned to being open on weekends (Saturdays and Sundays). Initial issues with Google listings and voicemails have been resolved; work is ongoing to correct information on other internet sites where it states open weekends are Fridays. Preparation for the Centennial Village's 50th birthday is coming along. A photojournalist and documentary crew filmed during History Fest; a promotional video for the museums is expected by the end of July 2026.

An article about History Fest was published in the Berthoud paper; the electronic link will be shared with the group.

The "Corn Mothers" group used Centennial Village for a photo shoot; photos will be included in the Corn Mothers' book, coming out in 2026.

Motion to thank the Corn Mothers for coming to centennial village made by Emma Pena-McCleave and seconded by George Junne.

Motion passed unanimously.

Board members asked about the status of the train depot and staff updated the board stating that phase 1 of the depot renovation is complete, while phase 2 is on hold.

There was a suggestion to have the next board meeting at Centennial Village.

Motion to have the July board meeting at centennial village made by Donna Hendren and seconded by Anne Masterson

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Friends of the Greeley Museum Report:

- Meetings were held with four city council members and the mayor; described as productive.
- Attempts to schedule meetings with Mayor Pro Tem and Brian Rudy have been unsuccessful; no next steps were defined.
- The Friends' website is mostly complete, with a clear path for donations and memberships.
- A CRM is now in place to manage data; over 100 people are now on the email communication list.
- The next step is to use their PR agency to reach out to media, starting with local outlets and expanding to the Front Range and Denver stations.
- It was suggested that the board write a letter to the family of Susan Seager to honor her work across Greeley, specifically in the Museums.

Motion to write a letter to the Seager family made by Anne Masterson and seconded by Donna Hendren.

7. Task Force Reports:

- Experience Team: The exhibit schedule has been updated. At the end of the year there is hopes to replace the Mezzanine exhibit. Then this team is working on the Centennial Village birthday celebration.

- Acquisitions Task Force: There is no report.

8. Old Business:

- Board member attendance/Term update: A letter was sent to Scott Chartier, museum board member asking if he still is interested in serving on the museum board. If the clerk's office does not hear back, then his term will end and the seat will be posted for applications.

9. New Business:

- Centennial Village 50th Anniversary Proclamation: There is a proclamation set to go forward to Mayor and Council July 7th. The board is welcome to attend.
- Museum Advisory Board Motion: Thanking Geoff Havens for service.
Motion to write a letter thanking Geoff Havens for his service while the corresponding resolution be withdrawn made by Emma Pena McCleave and seconded by Anne Masterson.
Motion passed unanimously.
- Museum Advisory Board Motion: Thanking Joanna Luth-Stull for service.
Motion to write a letter thanking Joanna for her service while the corresponding resolution be withdrawn made by Emma Pena-McCleave and seconded by George Junne.
Motion passed unanimously.
- Museum Advisory Board Resolution: The Museum board chair has drafted a resolution in regard to the budget reduction proposal from CPRD. The chair read the resolution to the board. The draft resolution asserted lack of transparency in budget cuts, potential staffing reductions harming public service, concerns about shifting to a 501(c) funding model, and existential risk to museums (68 historic structures).
- Edits included removing the word "ever" from "cannot be replaced ever" and correcting "sixty four" to "sixty eight historic structures."
- Staff clarified: the Cost Recovery Management Plan is a separate strategic document; budget reductions are informed by broader city issues. A formal budget presentation to the mayor and council is scheduled for July 7th; the city manager's budget is presented in August; the final budget is not adopted until October, allowing time for citizen input.

- Staff suggested waiting for the fuller picture before acting, and recommended collaborating with the citizen budget committee for budget-related questions.

Motion to postpone consideration of the resolution until the next board meeting to allow for more information after the July 7th presentation made by Donna Hendren and seconded by George June.

Motion passed unanimously.

10. Other

- George Junne suggested the museum consider an exhibit or program related to the Dust Bowl, connecting it to current weather conditions, water shortages, and climate change. The goal would be to educate people on the history of the Dust Bowl in Weld County and Greeley, examining both negative and positive aspects such as how people adapted.

The meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m

Next meeting will be held July 16th at the Centennial Village Museum.

**Greeley Museum Advisory Board Resolution Regarding Future Funding.
Greeley Museum Advisory Board Meeting July 16, 2026, Greeley, Colorado**

Whereas the Greeley Museum Advisory Board is comprised of Greeley citizens who volunteer their time and effort and are appointed by the Greeley City Council to provide advice about the Greeley Museums;

Whereas the City of Greeley promised to fund Greeley History Museums in CITY OF GREELEY, COLORADO ORDINANCE NO. 27, 2024, to wit, "The City Council shall appropriate sums in its annual budget necessary for the maintenance, staffing and operation of the city's museums";

Whereas the City of Greeley is facing a budget crisis that requires budget cuts;

Whereas the Museum Advisory Board explicitly asked the Culture Parks and Recreation Department to be allowed to participate in the planning of budget cuts in order to offer citizens' advice, which is our mandate;

Whereas the Culture Parks and Recreation Department explicitly refused to share any information about the budget cutting process or rationale with the Museum Advisory Board;

Whereas the CPRD's proposed budget explicitly states that it "intentionally concentrates reductions within one service area, allowing higher service levels to be maintained elsewhere across the department," and that reduced service is the Museums;

Whereas the CPRD's budget creates a budget shortfall which Option 3 and 4 separately or together cannot fill, Option 2 requires immediately closing the museum and cancelling most downtown cultural events, and Option 1 accelerates implementation of a Cost Recovery Framework whose last articulation included turning museum funding over to a 501(c)(3);

Whereas the proposal to eventually turn funding for the Greeley History Museums to a 501(c)(3) asks the City of Greeley to financially abandon the Greeley History Museums;

Whereas the proposed budget plans for the Greeley History Museums constitute an existential threat to the Greeley Museums, a complex of 68 historic structures that is larger than any other municipal museum in the State of Colorado; therefore, be it

Resolved that the Greeley Museum Advisory Board did offer to participate in the budget planning so we would not arrive at precisely this contentious and precipitous point in time;

Resolved that the Greeley Museum Advisory Board feels misused and disregarded by the Culture Parks and Recreation Department in this entire process;

Resolved that the Greeley Museum Advisory Board is convinced the CPRD does not understand the importance of the Greeley Museums in the downtown civic environment, the cultural vibrancy and resilience of Greeley, and the importance of the Museums in education and the conservation and preservation of Greeley and Weld County culture and history;

Resolved that the Greeley Museum Advisory Board asserts that these budget options admit and then obscure CPRD's main goal of defunding the Greeley Museums;

Resolved that the Greeley Museum Advisory Board requests relief from the CPRD's unwarranted and inexplicable animus toward the Greeley Museums;

Resolved that the Greeley Museum Advisory Board urges the Greeley City Council and Mayor to protect and preserve the City of Greeley's commitment to the Greeley History Museums, a cultural and historic resource and treasure that cannot be replaced.

CITY OF GREELEY MUSEUMS

Interpretive Master Plan
July 9, 2026

Submitted by:



7130 Minstrel Way, Suite 220
Columbia MD 21045

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Intro Summary

The Greeley Museums Interpretive Master Plan establishes a long-term vision for how the City of Greeley's museums will tell stories, engage visitors, and evolve over time. It provides an interpretive framework that connects the Greeley History Museum, Centennial Village Museum, Meeker Home Museum, and White-Plumb Farm Learning Center while recognizing the unique character and functions of each site.

This plan serves as a roadmap for future decision-making. Through research, stakeholder engagement, and review of existing collections and interpretive materials, it identifies opportunities to strengthen storytelling, enhance visitor experiences, expand educational programming, and guide the development of future exhibitions and digital content.

The recommendations presented here establish interpretive themes, offer priorities for future funding and non-capital improvements, and outline a phased implementation strategy that aligns with the City's goals, as well as best practices in accessibility, inclusion and visitor-centered design. Together, these recommendations provide a flexible framework that will help Greeley Museums create engaging, meaningful experiences for residents and visitors for years to come.

Mission Statement

The Greeley History Museum preserves and shares the diverse stories of the people, communities, and landscapes that have shaped Greeley and Northern Colorado. Through our four sites—the Greeley History Museum, Centennial Village, Meeker Home, and White-Plumb Farm—we connect past and present by engaging the community as storytellers, collaborators, and stewards of local history. Our exhibits, programs, and collections invite reflection, curiosity, and pride in place, fostering a shared understanding of how individuals and communities together shape the region’s ongoing story.

Short version:

The Greeley History Museum connects people and communities through stories that bring our shared past to life. Across four historic sites, we celebrate Greeley’s diverse heritage, inspire curiosity, and invite everyone to take part in shaping the story of this place.

Four Sites, One Story



Meeker Home

The dream.

Who had the idea? What were they imagining? Can a utopia work?



White-Plumb Farm

The work.

Walk the irrigated fields. Meet the family who made it real for 100 years.



Centennial Village

The community.

Scale the idea up. See how water made towns, schools, blacksmithing, whole lives.



History Museum

The memory.

What did it cost? Who was displaced? What does it mean right now?

A solid yellow vertical bar is positioned to the left of the text.

Meeker Home

The Dream

A solid yellow vertical bar is positioned on the right edge of the slide.A solid orange vertical bar is positioned on the right edge of the slide.A solid red vertical bar is positioned on the right edge of the slide.A solid maroon vertical bar is positioned on the right edge of the slide.

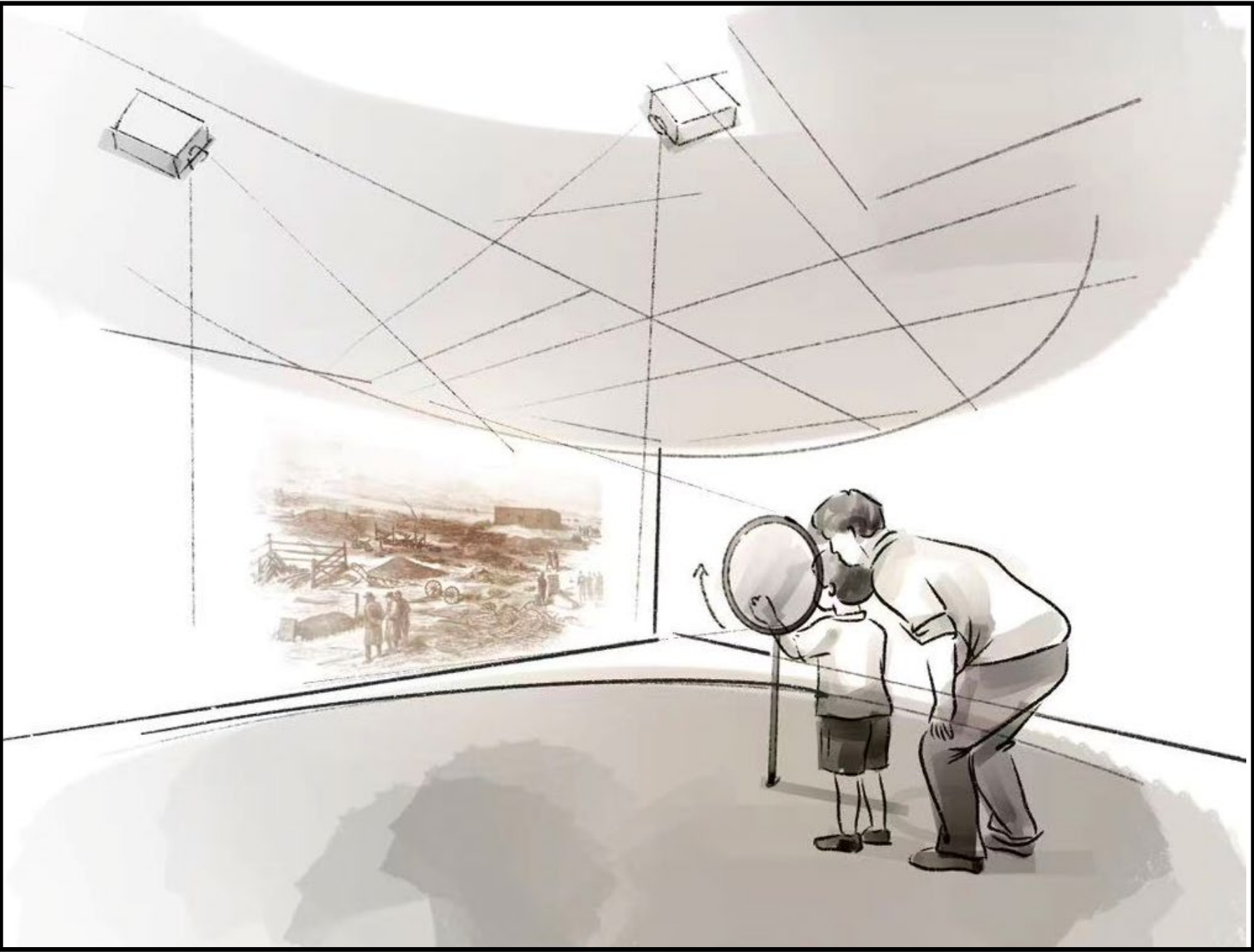
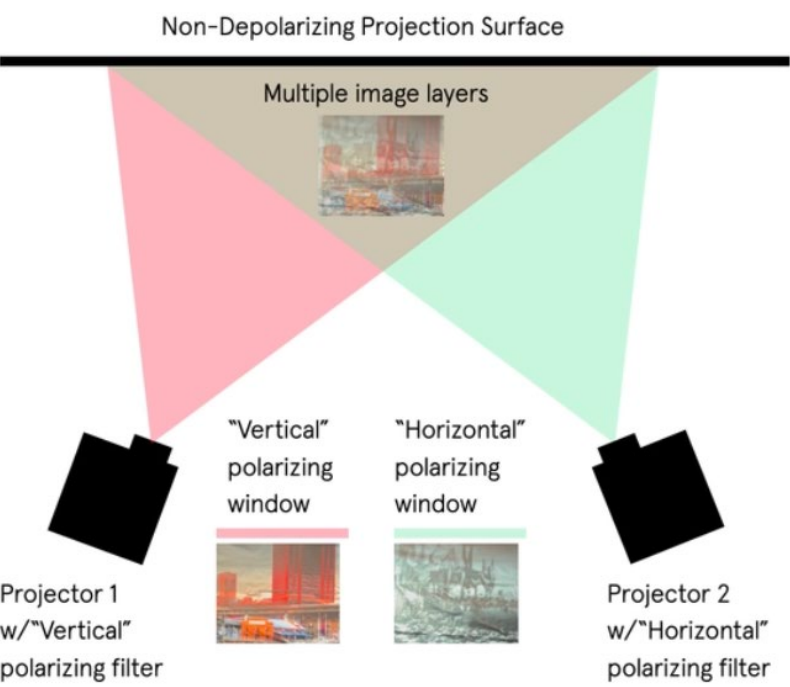
Juxtapositions

Myth vs. Reality

Visitors toggle between images of an idealized Union Colony narratives and documented stories of Indigenous peoples and impacts on the land.

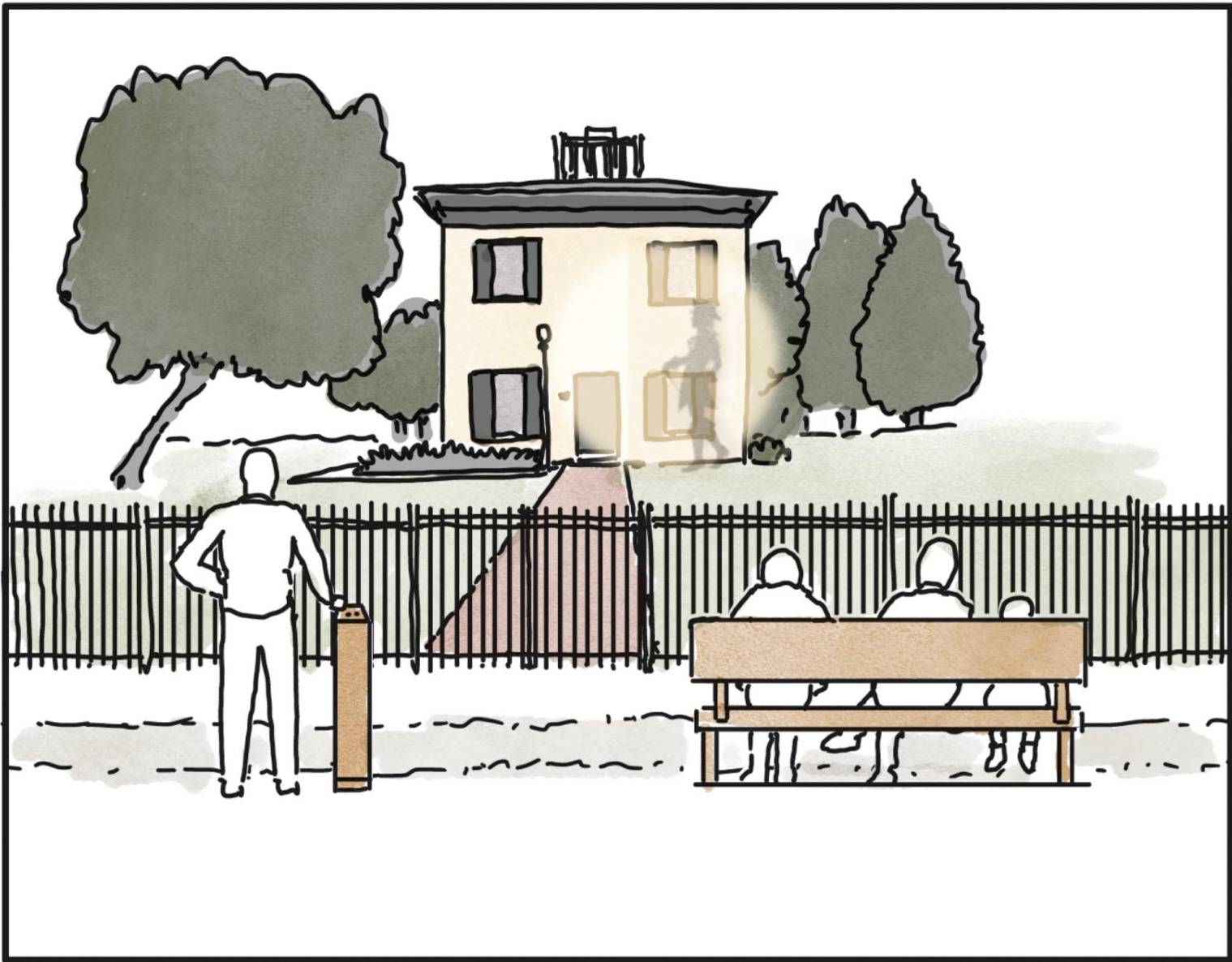
How it works:

Two projectors with vertical polarizing filters overlay different images on the same surface. By rotating the polarizing film lens, visitors can reveal either the Myth or the Reality.



MEEKER HOME ACTIVATION

The Meeker Home can be activated both day and night with relatively low cost, place-based audio delivery. The audio post or bench can also work in the evening. Quatrefoil recommends continuing the building projection program with seasonally relevant shows.



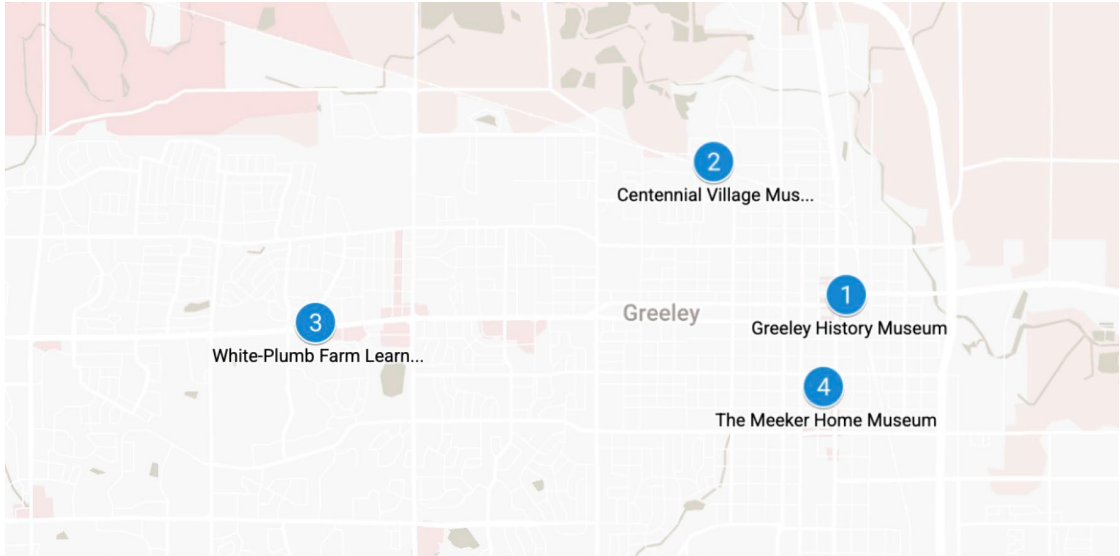
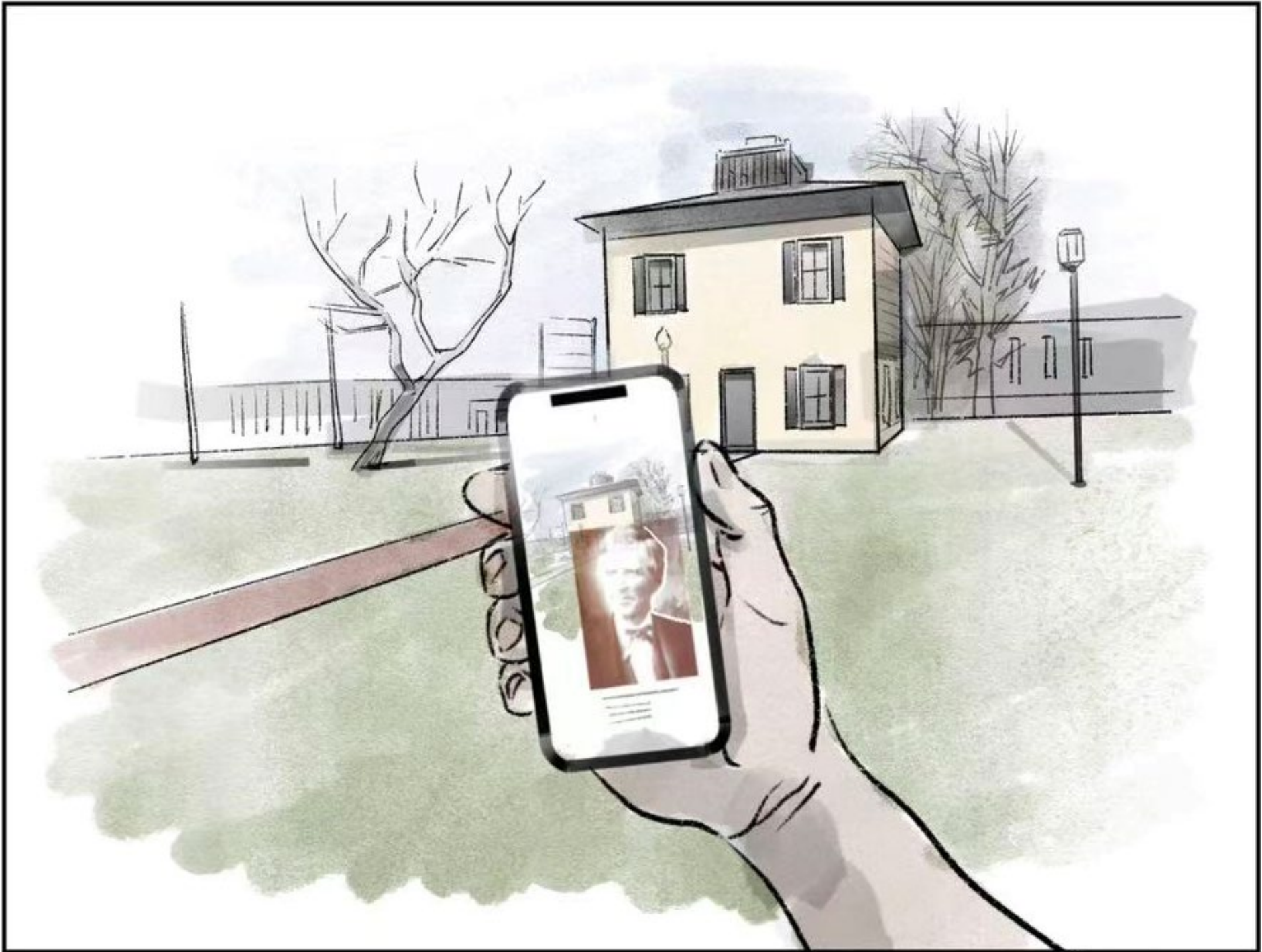
The Audio Bench and the Audio Post have built-in solar powered players that can support multiple stories.
<https://www.blackboxav.co.uk/project/solar-audio-post-audio-bench-neath-abbey/>



Continue offering the building projection at Meeker Home with continued focus on contrast between myth and evidence-based history.

MEEKER AR NARRATIVE TRAIL

Augmented Reality “trigger points” are installed along a designated (mapped) trail throughout a walkable area of town. The trigger points may include images of historic figures, or branded graphics with QR codes. Stories are told by either historic figures or historically accurate fictional characters at each location offering contrasting perspectives. This is an opportunity for working with the company STQRY to produce the content.





White-Plumb Farm

The Work

FENCE GRAPHICS

While the White Plum Farm may be activated in more significant ways in the future, interpretive options such as a graphic band running along the property's fence can be implemented easily. This interpretative strategy offers opportunities for storytelling that address the importance of this site on Greeley's founding. QR codes can also be incorporated to trigger media hosted on the museum's website.





Centennial Village

The Community



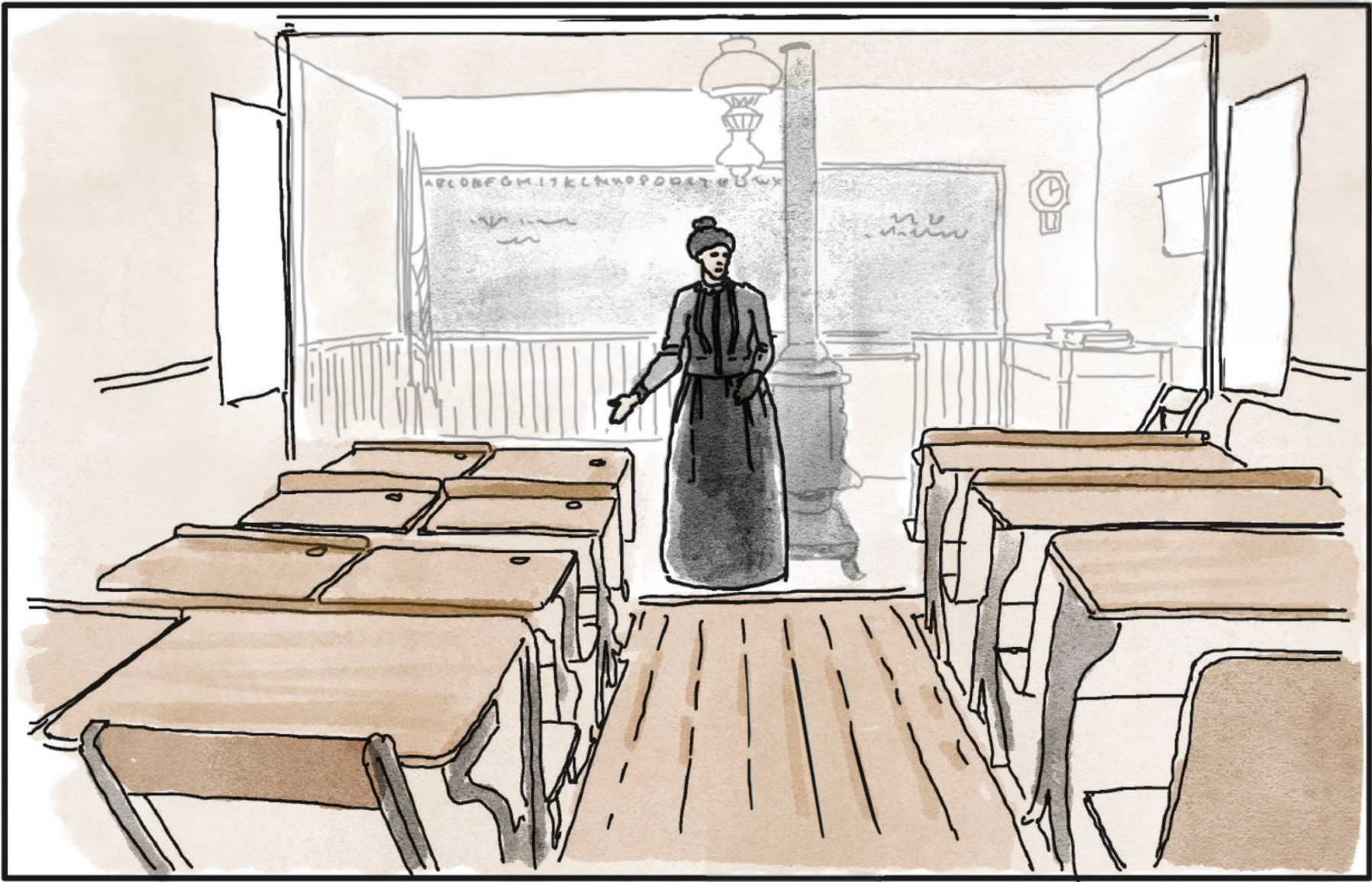
SOUNDSCAPING

Soundscaping the Centennial Village can make the environment feel inhabited and more alive. Period music and voices may be heard drifting from one of the house interiors, organ music may emanate from inside the church, or a distant steam train may be heard in the distance. Speakers hidden in strategic locations can activate the environment in ways that feel authentic and more convincing than other mediums.



VIRTUAL INHABITANTS

Projection on scrim material can create a lifelike presence designed to greet visitors and deliver compelling stories. Structures like the schoolhouse, or Rattle Snake Kate's home may be ideal structures for this kind of experience.



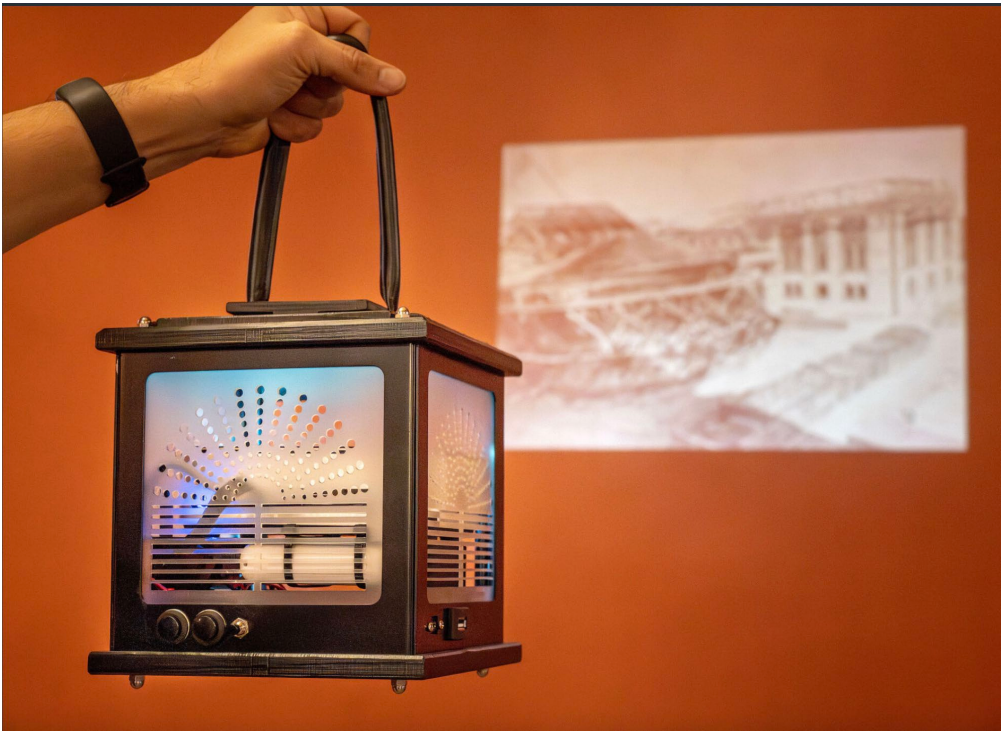
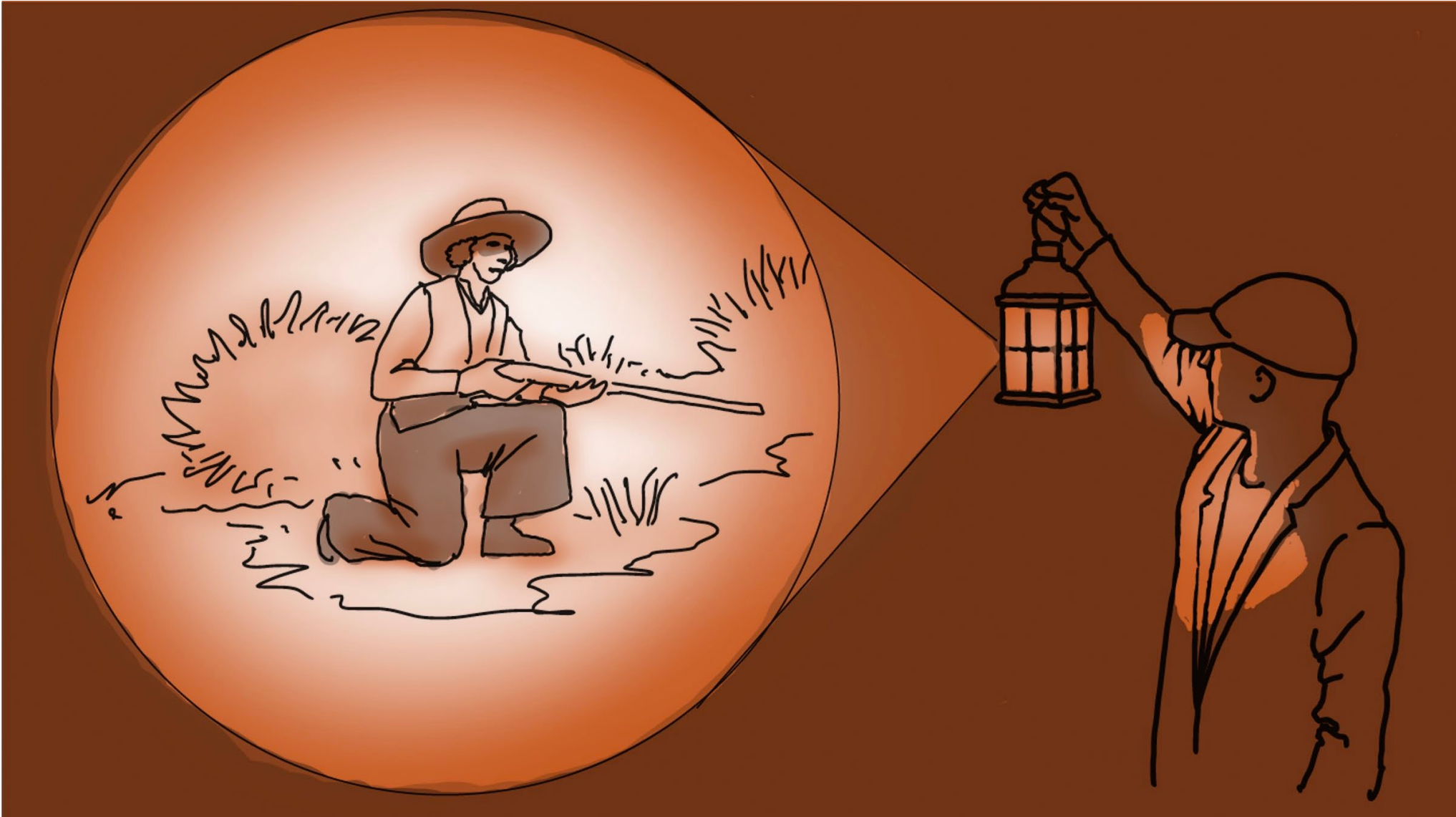
Virtual Oysterman, Annapolis Maritime Museum



Virtual Shopkeeper, Desert Caballeros Western Museum

FRONTIER LANTERN WALK

Docents can guide visitors and school groups with a "Storytelling Lantern" that incorporates video projection and audio tracks that are triggered automatically at predetermined points along the route.



Lantern projector developed for Flagler College exhibition

ROLE PLAYING

Role playing offers immersive forms of engagement that are both fun and informative. It allows visitors to temporarily step out of the contemporary world and experience life in the past. Unlike many activities, role-playing exercises visitor's creative agency and real-world social connections. As we have seen in a number of popular events such as Renaissance Fairs, The Edwardian Ball, and Fables of the Frontier, role-playing can open a door to the way people lived, helping visitors empathize with their hardships and recognize their victories, exercise critical thinking, and deepen the retention of what they learn. Role playing opportunities can be designed as events encompassing the entire village, or more individual or small group experiences.

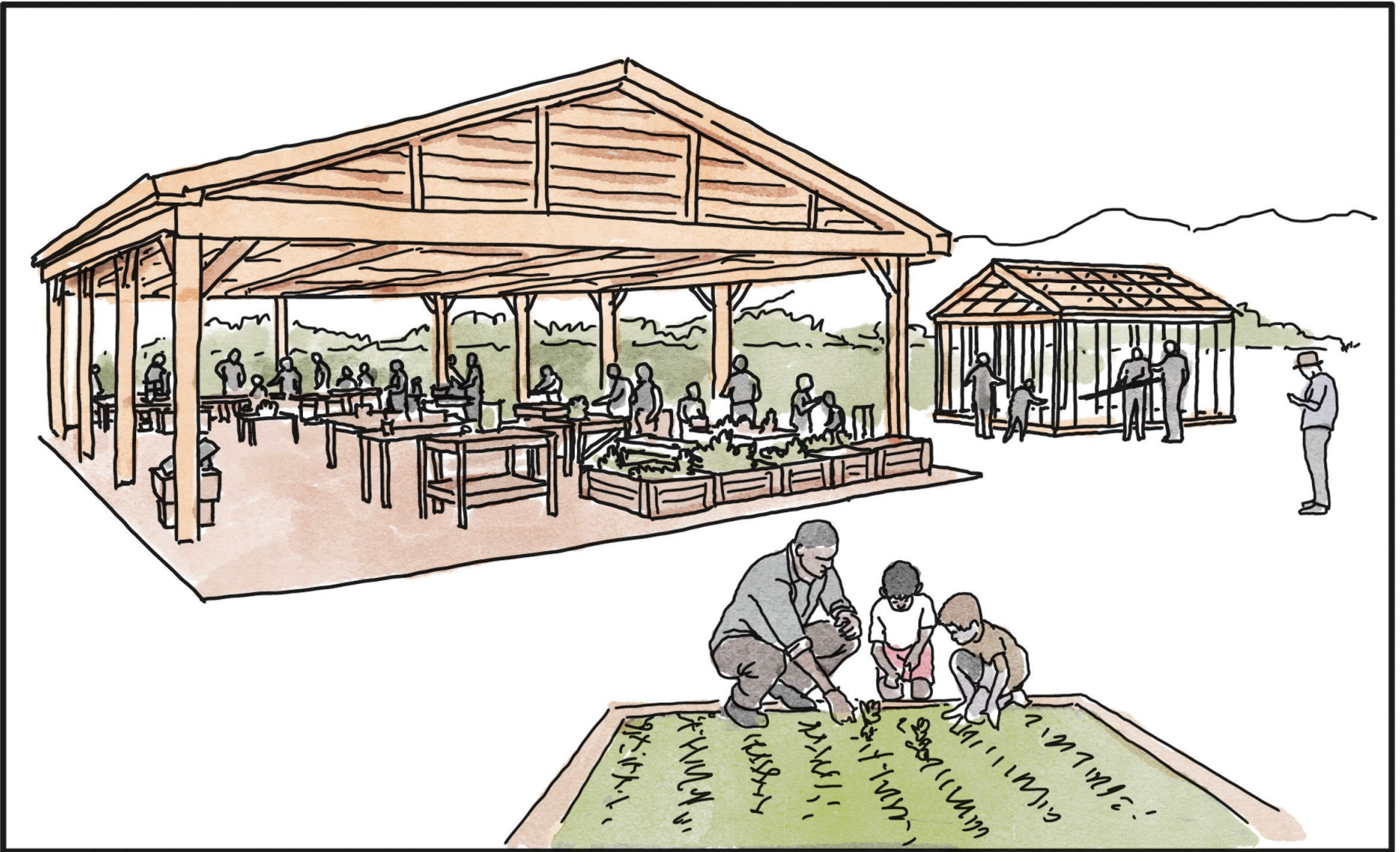


ENGINEERING PLAYGROUND

Many of the engineering techniques and accomplishments the Union Colony achieved are explored here through both gross motor and small motor activities.

Visitors using traditional tools and methods offer both critical thinking challenges and help participants learn how things were built and maintained in the past. A “history-based” maker space will be designed for both individuals and groups to try their hand at everything from furniture building to soap and candle making to irrigation ditch planning. A section of this area can also focus on food and gardening techniques. The Engineering Playground can offer unguided activities as well as programmed activities.

Small Motor Activity – Children’s programming idea: Kits, similar to Lincoln logs or other toys designed to be assembled, tell a story once the structure is built or the task is completed.





Greeley History Museum

The Memory

ENTRANCE

To address the confusion visitors sometimes experience in the Atrium, graphic banners can provide wayfinding as well as create a welcoming arrival experience.



MAIN LOBBY

Quatrefoil recommends a better utilization of the 1st floor lobby space as an introduction to the museum. The function of this space not only announces a visitor's arrival but also introduces the museum's offerings, and hints at Greeley's multi-faceted history.

We recommend considering a central, visual "anchor", whether that is a large, impressive artifact, or a graphic display. Depending on budget, these approaches could incorporate digital media or rely on analog modes of content delivery.



LOWER LOBBY

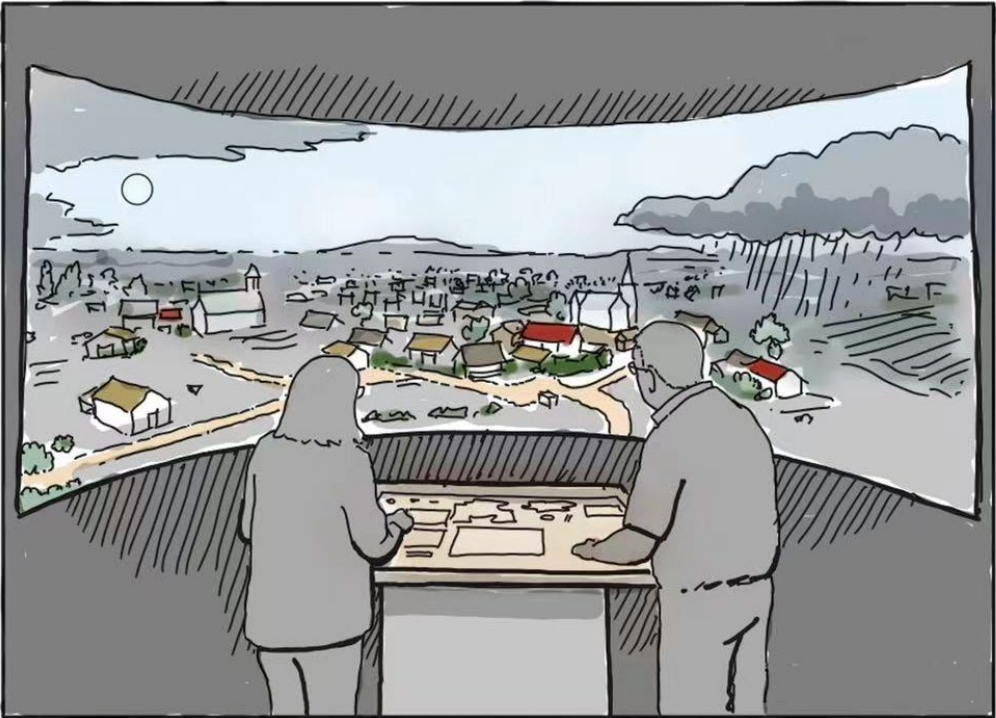
Placing display vitrines along the two side walls and removing the existing central showcase will open up views across the space and improve visitor circulation.



MAIN GALLERY

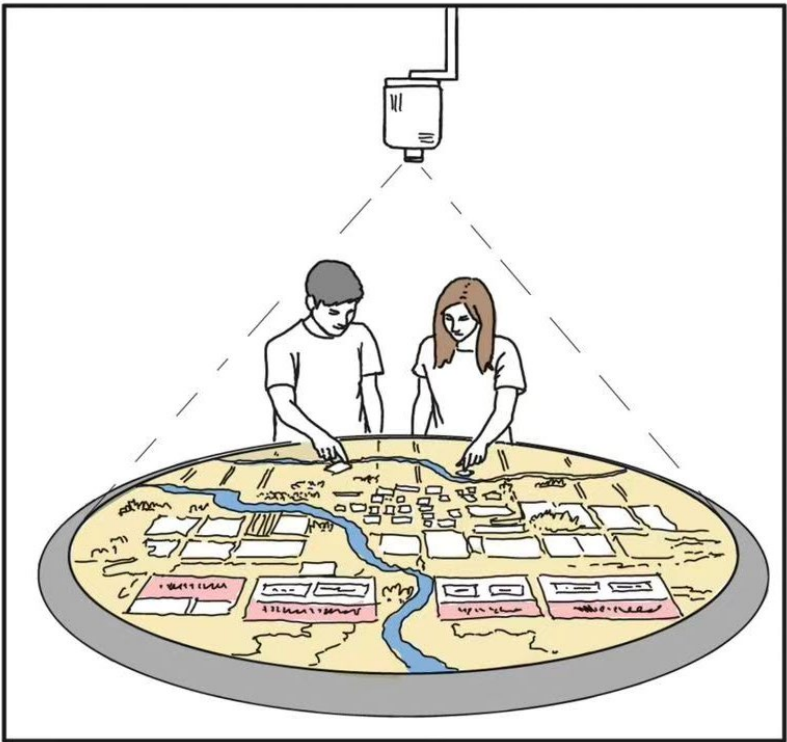
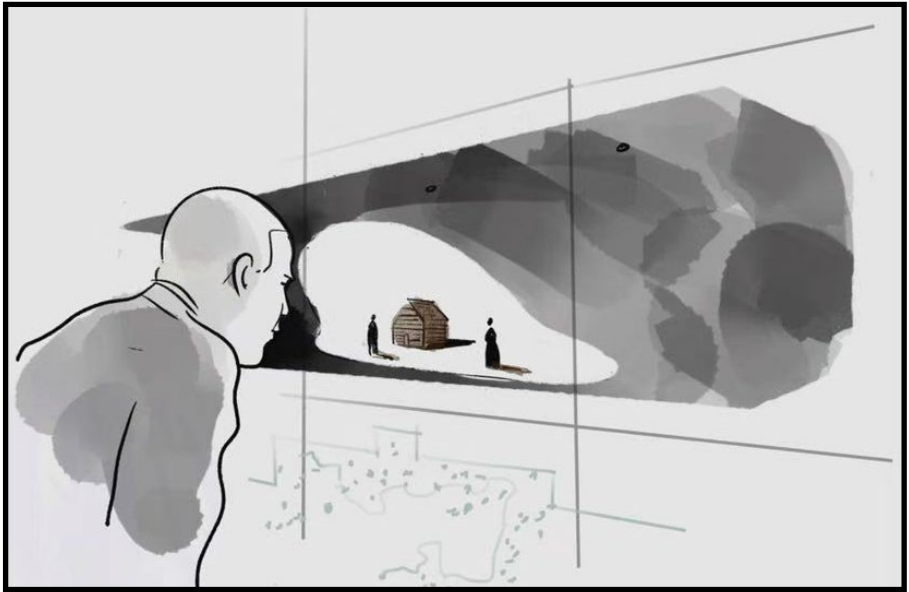
Upgrades to the Main Gallery are recommended to modernize the permanent exhibition and can be handled in a variety of ways. Certain areas, especially those less popular, may be selected for phased upgrades.

An interactive wall invites visitors to explore the history of the City of Greeley through a series of engaging historical vignettes with technology that activates layered stories revealing key moments, people, and events from different eras.



This is imagined as an interactive area where weather events (drought, frost, flood) are projected onto a model of pioneer- era Greeley. Narration explains how weather altered daily life. Visitors can interact with the model to explore different techniques for living in harsh environments.

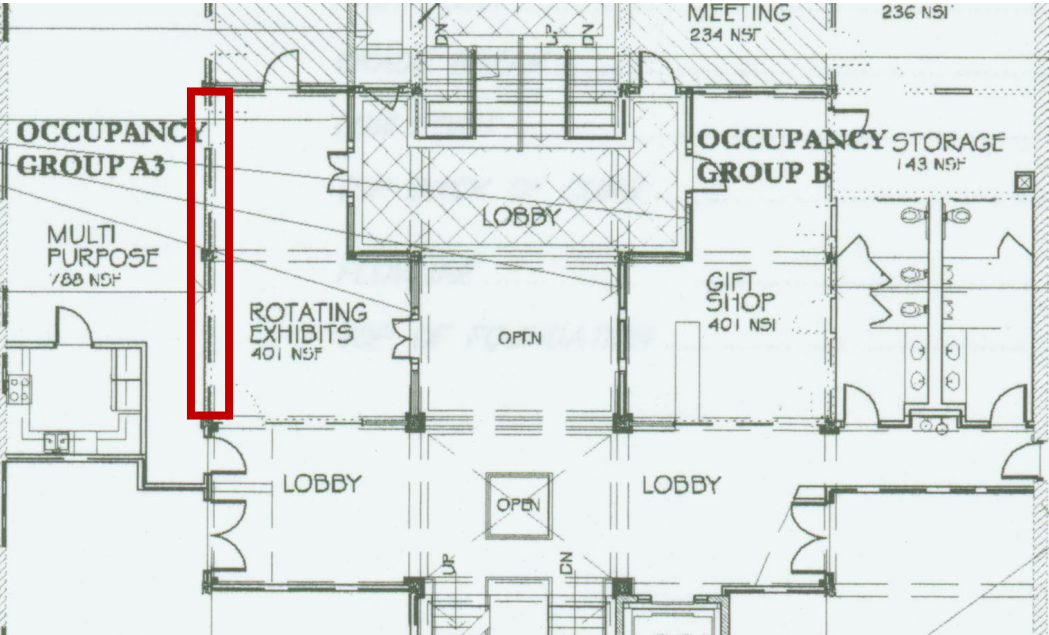
Embedded wall showcases display artifacts and small dioramas that connect the digital narratives to tangible objects.



A multi-user interactive strategy table allows visitors to address challenges based on Greeley's historical data. For example, visitors can test their abilities to successfully manage water allocation, immigration, agricultural strategies, and governance.

COMMUNITY GALLERY

A gallery devoted to highlighting the richness of Greeley's ethnic communities through temporary exhibitions and events can solidify the museum's commitment to celebrating Greeley's vibrant cultural life. This gallery could potentially occupy either the temporary exhibition gallery or be situated in the gallery space on the second floor.



Remove the wall (highlighted in red) to create a more open space for community gallery





Interconnections

BIKE TOUR STATION

To expand the reach of interpreted engagement, the Greeley History Museum can offer storytelling bike tours by partnering with a local bike rental company. While the rack of bikes would be maintained by the rental company, GHM would allow visitors to check out GPS enabled smart helmets.



NEWSPAPER BOXES

Vintage newspaper boxes placed in different parts of Greeley's historic area play with the idea that GHM now occupies the Greeley Tribune building. The GHM branded newspaper boxes offer "newspapers" containing stories, puzzles, event calendars, and old-time advertisements. The look of the newspaper will be based on the early Tribune.



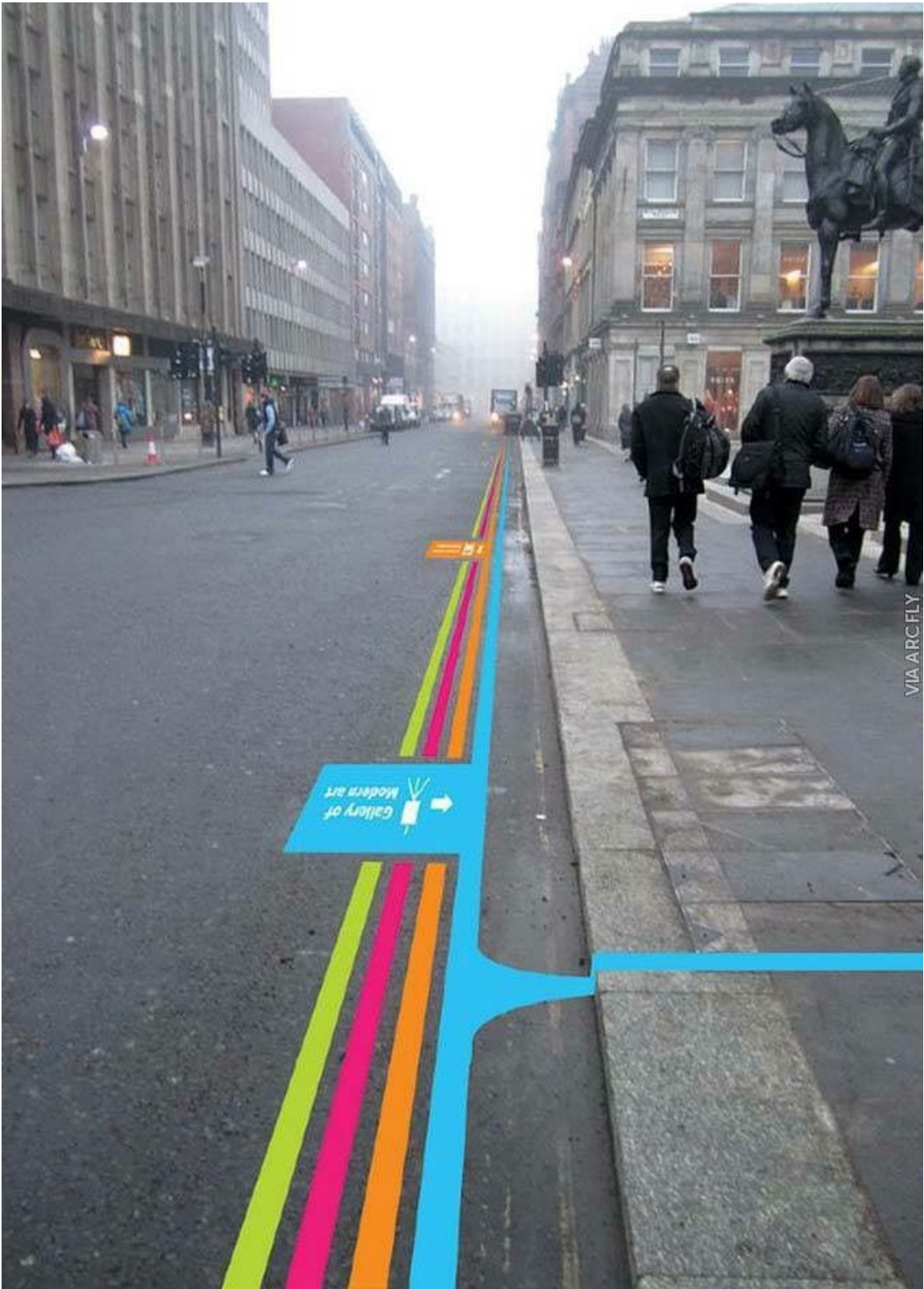
AUDIO BENCHES

Public seating with solar powered/weatherproof audio playback devices incorporated into the bench design will offer residents and tourists alike the opportunity to hear stories about Greeley's history. The placement of audio benches may determine the focus of the stories being offered.



SIDEWALK TRAILS

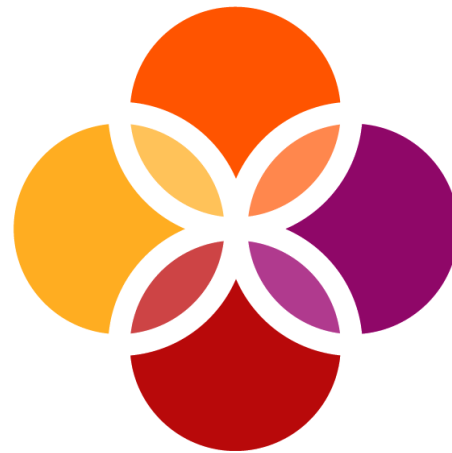
Stenciled, etched, or thermoplastic sidewalk graphics can display a color/pattern coded system of wayfinding starting (as well as leading back to) GHM. Graphically supported trail lines or patterns can guide users along specific routes with messaging incorporated along the way. Associated QR codes trigger place-based media supported on the museum's website.



AR MOMENTS

Augmented Reality storytelling is triggered through an app responding to large graphic elements such as life size historic figures (e.g. Rattlesnake Kate, etc.). Stories are told that relate directly to the area or site. Once the AR starts, the 2-dimensional figures seem to come alive. This is another opportunity to involve STQRY in content production and management.





QUATREFOIL

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