



Gem & Gold Panning



The museum hosts gold & gem panning all summer and panning for extra gold over Gold Rush Days the third weekend in July. This activity is made possible by a grant from the EPYCS group.

Modern Mine Tours

Tours of the CC&V Gold Mining Operations are offered June-August leaving from the Museum. \$5 pp. Reservations are suggested at 689-4211. Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

If you want more info on museum events and news, visit victorcolorado.com or call or email one of the board members.

Board of Directors

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 Nancy Hanks, Treasurer
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2009 Newsletter

PLANNING, GRANTS, FINANCIAL PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS in 2008
 We had a great year at the Museum in 2008. Some of things we accomplished with your support and volunteer help include:

- Completed a State Historical Fund grant that funded construction documents for phase 1-3 stabilization of the foundation, north wall and 1st and 2nd floors of the museum building.
- Received a State Historic Fund grant for Phase 1 - \$208,000 total and raised over \$70,000 for required matching funds. Phase 1 includes the stabilization of the foundation and north wall
- The \$70,000 match was raised by a dinner and auction, courtesy of the Elks, at which we raised \$15,000; grants and donations were received from the Boettcher Foundation, The Edmund T. and Eleanor Quick Foundation, City of Cripple Creek, CC&V Gold Mining CO and numerous donations from individuals.
- We have received the construction contract from the state and have begun the bidding. Construction of Phase 1 will start later this winter. A professional architect and grant administrator/writer have been hired to oversee the construction and grant administration.
- Applied Oct. 1, 2008 for a Phase 2 stabilization grant from the State Historical Fund \$243,225 total with a required match of \$60,806; the grant cycle was too competitive and the grant was not rewarded - we will apply again April 1. We are in the process of raising the matching funds toward the Phase 2 grant, needed by Aug 1, 2009. The Gates Family Foundation awarded the museum an \$80,000 grant for Phases 2 and 3.
- Attended Rural Philanthropy Days in Cripple Creek to seek sources for funding Phase 2, Phase 3 and other capital projects in the future.
- The Museum began a membership and sponsorship program, which raised over \$10,000 in 2008
- Adopted a strategic plan, which was followed to achieve this list of successes in 2008, including a marketing plan, which included a new website and rack cards, posters and more; we have also begun working on a comprehensive capital plan for future renovation and restoration beyond the current building stabilization plans
- Completed our first-ever financial audit and instituted policies and procedures for cash management. Received a favorable review from the auditor, Taylor, Roth and Co. PLLC
- Expanded the museum staffing and the time open into mid-October; for 2009 if we raise enough operating funds, hope to have the museum open Memorial Day weekend and will aim (for the 1st time) be open 7 days a week thru Labor Day and then weekends through Columbus Day.

Museum News

December 2008 - The Gates Family Foundation awarded the museum \$80,000 toward Phases 2 and 3 stabilization.

July 2008 - The Boettcher Foundation awarded the museum stabilization effort a \$20,000 grant. Thanks Tim Schutlz and the Boettcher Foundation Board of Directors!

July 26, 2008 - Over 75 people attended a 1904 labor wars fundraiser event at the Victor Elks sponsored by the Victor Heritage Society. Donations to the museum totalled over \$500.

May 28, 2008 - The Edmund T. and Eleanor Quick Foundation awarded the museum a \$10,000 grant for the stabilization work.

May 24, 2008 - Museum opening celebration a huge success thanks to those who attended.

March 25, 2008 - Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company granted our cause \$10,000. Thanks CC&V!

March 19, 2008 - City of Cripple Creek grants our project \$25,000...The Cripple Creek District Museum and the City of Cripple Creek granted the Victor Improvement Association \$25,000.

March 8, 2008 - Victor Elks Lodge Benefit Dinner/Auction raised \$15,139 for the museum. Thank you friends and neighbors!

Feb. 4, 2008 - The Victor Improvement Association was awarded a \$208,177 Colorado State Historical Fund Grant to stabilize the north wall of the museum building.

- The Marketing Plan helped us achieve good visitorship numbers this year and the VLT museum began charging admissions. With most area attractions posting a decline in visitorship of 20-30% less than 2007, the VLT museum had only 50 fewer visitors or less than 2% fewer than in 2007.
- Joined the Colorado Wyoming Association of Museums and the Coalition of Historic Museums – a group of Pikes Peak Regional Museums - to share information and cooperate on marketing.

Exhibits and Programming

- Installed the new Dr. Denman and Lillian Titmas room exhibit
- Consolidated mining exhibits
- Displayed Ed Hunter's mining lamp display for the season
- Displayed historic bottles which were preserved from the CC&V Gold Mining Company's Cresson Expansion Project
- Improved our positive contribution to the community by drawing visitors to Victor through our marketing efforts, providing for visitor experiences to compliment our local businesses and give visitors a reason to stay and explore Victor, the museum, the gift shop, gold panning and mine tours. We also added guided historic site tours during events throughout the year.

Curatorial, Inventory and Gift Shop

- Continued work toward a new inventory of all artifacts in the collection
- Upgraded the gift shop and added several items for sale
- Worked to improve security for exhibit items
- Cleaned out/organized the basement in preparation for construction, removing trash and inventorying and moving artifacts to storage.



Volunteers Needed

We need assistance in several areas - if you have some spare time and want to make a difference please let us know - without volunteers we cannot survive. Nearly all of the accomplishments in 2008 were due to the community and board members volunteering. Currently the museum can only afford one part-time summer employee. The full-time summer student employee is donated by CC&V Gold Mining Company.

- We need help raising matching funds for Phases 2 and 3 as well as other grant matching.
- Help with fund raising events, ideas, and we need donations to show granting agencies and foundations local support.
- We need volunteer Docents to assist in staffing the museum, helping with gold panning, inventory and giving tours.
- We need help with museum maintenance such as cleaning, weeding, painting, repairs, moving artifacts/exhibits and building display cases and exhibits.
- See the website for updated volunteer opportunities.