



COLORADO SPRINGS

About city cultural services

- The Cultural Services Division within the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services encompasses city heritage and natural history properties such as the Pioneers Museum, Rock Ledge Ranch, Starsmore Discovery Center and Helen Hunt Falls Visitor Center.
- More than 250,000 people visit these Cultural Services sites each year, and more than 700 people volunteer their time to these facilities. For many years, these city properties have been reliable models of public-private partnerships, using nonprofit support groups to supplement their revenue in order to serve the public; more than 30 percent of funding for these properties comes from individuals, grants and other private donations.
- The Pioneers Museum cares for an extensive collection of 75,000 artifacts, including the world's largest collection of Van Briggles art pottery and nationally significant collections of quilts, Native American baskets and regional landscape paintings; about 80,000 historic photos; and 6,400 cubic feet of archival records, including the diaries and letters of city founder Gen. William Jackson Palmer.
- The Pioneers Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums. About 55,000 people visit the museum annually, including thousands of schoolchildren.
- The Pioneers Museum also is charged with maintenance of about 75 pieces of public art owned by the city. No city appropriations are provided for maintenance of public art.
- The 2012 budget provides about \$800,000 for operations of the Pioneers Museum, which is about half of what is required for the museum to care for its collection and serve the public. A dedicated group of community stakeholders is working on a multiyear process to transition the museum from a municipal museum with private support to a nonprofit museum working in partnership with the city.
- For 2013, the city has allocated resources to operate the popular Julie Penrose and Uncle Wilber fountains, however both those city assets continue to rely on private dollars from nonprofit support arms to serve the public.
- Unlike many cities, Colorado Springs does not provide General Fund or lodging-tax support to the arts. Municipal support to the arts for similar-sized regions nationally averages about \$1.3 million annually.

Note: This fact sheet was prepared by COPPER, the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region.

Sources: City of Colorado Springs, Americans for the Arts, Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region