

## STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs  
130 State Capitol  
Denver, CO 80203  
Phone (303) 866-2087  
Fax (303) 866-5469  
[www.colorado.gov/ltgovernor/](http://www.colorado.gov/ltgovernor/)



December 31, 2014

Joseph A. Garcia  
Lieutenant Governor/Chair

Colorado State Legislature  
Colorado State Capitol  
200 East Colfax Ave.  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Capital Development Committee Members,

On behalf of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, I wish to lend my support for the request for additional funding to complete the Ute Indian Museum expansion project. The Ute Indian Museum represents an important cultural asset to the Montrose community, a destination for both local residents and international tourists, and importantly, an invaluable resource for K-12 schools in the region. From its inception in 2008, the Museum expansion was designed to raise the institution's profile in the community and to enhance the services it provides to its various constituents. The building design increases square-footage devoted to exhibits and classrooms in order to accommodate school field trips, as well as casual visitors. The Museum has the potential to earn significant revenues as a rental space for which there is substantial local demand, but currently lacks the interior space to meet those needs. The building design addresses this issue and provides for new energy-efficient and effective building and security systems.

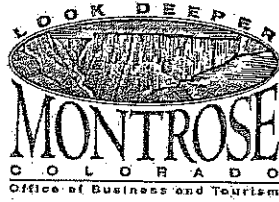
The Ute Indian Museum is one of the few non-tribally managed museums in the nation to interpret the culture of one American Indian group. Because of this, History Colorado has developed strong collaborative relationships with the three Ute Tribes in ongoing consultations around this project. History Colorado holds an important collection of Ute ethnographic objects, but only a third of this collection is on display at the Museum with the potential to display more with the expansion.

Ute history is Colorado's history, and the Ute Indian Museum is uniquely able to preserve and interpret that history for generations to come. This project will enable History Colorado to enhance programs and services provided to students, educators, local families, and tourists. Thank you for considering supplemental funding to expand the Ute Indian Museum. Please do not hesitate to contact me with further questions at [ernest.house@state.co.us](mailto:ernest.house@state.co.us) or (303) 866-5470.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernest House, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Ernest House, Jr.  
Executive Director, CCIA



CITY OF MONTROSE  
OFFICE OF BUSINESS AND TOURISM

Rob Joseph, Director  
Direct Dial: 970 240 1427  
E-mail: [rjoseph@ci.montrose.co.us](mailto:rjoseph@ci.montrose.co.us)

December 30, 2014

RE: Request for Approval to Supplement Funding for the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose, CO

Dear Capital Development Committee members:

The Ute Indian Museum is an important cultural asset to the Montrose community, a unique resource for K-12 schools in the region, and a destination for local residents and international visitors. Due to escalating construction costs between the time the museum's expansion was approved and now, additional funding is required to ensure that the significant investment of time and money turns out to be a wise investment that provides capacity into the future. The building design increases square-footage devoted to exhibits and classrooms while including work space for staff and volunteers who support the facility and currently share a single office. Moreover, as evidenced by the fact that the museum's retail store is the most successful among History Colorado's regional museums, there is potential to significantly increase revenues with space that improves layout and provides increased storage space for inventory.

History Colorado has modified the design utilizing value-engineering and the project budget anticipates the reuse of many materials. Interior furnishings will, in part, be built in-house to further reduce costs; however, these cost-cutting measures will not close the construction budget deficit. Within the current budget, the project will not accommodate expanded exhibit space, group gathering spaces, and related support spaces. More importantly, the project budget will likely not support modern environmental systems that will reduce long-term operating costs.

Ute history is Colorado's history, and the Ute Indian Museum is uniquely able to preserve and interpret that history for generations to come.

Thank you for approving supplemental funding so that the original reasons to expand the Ute Indian Museum are fully met.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Joseph".

Rob Joseph  
Assistant City Manager  
Director, Office of Business and Tourism

Letter to State Legislature Requesting Approval of Supplemental Funding Request for the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose, Colorado

Dear Capital Development Committee members,

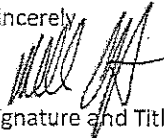
History Colorado is advancing to the Construction Drawing phase of the Ute Indian Museum expansion and respectfully requests additional funding to complete the project and meet project goals. This project was originally designed in 2008 at a construction budget of \$1.9m, but was put on hold when funds were rescinded in 2009. In the past seven years, construction costs have escalated, resulting in a current estimate of approximately \$2.4 million, an increase of \$500,000.

The Ute Indian Museum represents an important cultural asset to the Montrose community, a destination for both local residents and international tourists, and importantly, an invaluable resource for K-12 schools in the region. From its inception in 2008, the Ute Indian Museum expansion was designed to raise the institution's profile in the community and to enhance the services it provides to its various constituents. The building design increases square-footage devoted to exhibits and classrooms in order to accommodate school field trips, as well as casual visitors. The design includes work space for the few paid staff and many volunteers who support the facility and currently share a single office. The Ute Indian Museum has the potential to earn significant revenues as a rental space for which there is substantial local demand, but currently lacks the interior space to meet those needs. The Ute Indian Museum retail operation is the most successful among History Colorado's regional museums, but is constrained by an awkward physical lay-out and lack of storage space. The building design addresses both of these issues and provides for new energy-efficient and effective building and security systems.

History Colorado has undertaken a thorough value-engineering process and modified the design accordingly. The project budget anticipates the reuse of materials on-site and from other properties, including insulation, cabinetry, gift shop wall finishes and flooring. Interior furnishings will, in part, be built in-house to further reduce costs. However, these cost-cutting measures will not close the construction budget deficit. Within the current budget, the project will not accommodate expanded exhibit space or exterior architectural features desired by Ute tribal consultants and will limit the expansion of school group gathering spaces and related support spaces. More importantly, the project budget will likely not support modern environmental systems that will reduce long-term operating costs.

Ute history is Colorado's history, and the Ute Indian Museum is uniquely able to preserve and interpret that history for generations to come. This project will enable History Colorado to enhance programs and services provided to school children and educators, local families and tourists audiences. Thank you for considering supplemental funding to expand the Ute Indian Museum.

Sincerely,

  
Signature and Title

12/30/14  
Date

DANIEL GRAVEL, President  
CHAMBERLAIN ARCHITECTS, P.C.  
GLENDO SPRING, COLORADO

CC: Governor John Hickenlooper  
Ernest House - Director- Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs  
Bo Pogue, CDC Staff  
Henry Sobanet, Director, Office of State Planning and Budgeting  
Budgeting  
Laura Blomquist - OSPB  
Sen. Ellen Roberts  
CJ Brafford - Director, Ute Indian Museum

Lt. Governor Joe Garcia  
Kori Donaldson, CDC Staff  
Matt Becker, CDC Staff  
Erick Scheminske - Deputy Director, Office of State Planning and  
Rep. Don Coram  
Kathryn Hill - COO, History Colorado  
Andy Stine - Facilities Director, History Colorado

# Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

## Office of the Chairman

Mr. Manuel Heart  
P.O. Box JJ  
Towaoc, CO 81334

To: State of Colorado, Capital Development Committee members,

History Colorado is advancing to the Construction Drawing phase of the Ute Indian Museum expansion and respectfully requests additional funding to complete the project and meet project goals. This project was originally designed in 2008 at a construction budget of \$1.9m, but was put on hold when funds were rescinded in 2009. In the past seven years, construction costs have escalated, resulting in a current estimate of approximately \$2.4 million, an increase of \$500,000.

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- The Ute Indian Museum represents an important cultural asset to the Montrose community, a destination for both local residents and international tourists, and importantly, an invaluable resource for K-12 schools in the region. From its inception in 2008, the Ute Indian Museum expansion was designed to raise the institution's profile in the community and to enhance the services it provides to its various constituents.
- The building design increases square-footage devoted to exhibits and classrooms in order to accommodate school field trips, as well as casual visitors. The design includes work space for the few paid staff and many volunteers who support the facility and currently share a single office.
- The Ute Indian Museum has the potential to earn significant revenues as a rental space for which there is substantial local demand, but currently lacks the interior space to meet those needs. The Ute Indian Museum retail operation is the most successful among History Colorado's regional museums, but is constrained by an awkward physical lay-out and lack of storage space.
- The building design addresses both of these issues and provides for new energy-efficient and effective building and security systems.

Ute history is Colorado's history, and the Ute Indian Museum is uniquely able to preserve and interpret that history for generations to come. This project will enable History Colorado to enhance programs and services provided to school children and educators, local families and tourist audiences. Thank you for your consideration and support of this supplemental funding to expand the Ute Indian Museum.

Sincerely,

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Manuel Heart*

Manuel Heart, Chairman  
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Date: 1-5-15

CC: Governor John Hickenlooper  
Ernest House - Director, Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs  
Bo Pogue, CDC Staff  
Henry Sobariet, Director, Office of State Planning and Budgeting  
Laura Blomquist - OSPB  
Sen. Ellen Roberts  
Andy Silme - Facilities Director, History Colorado

Lt. Governor Joe Garcia  
Kari Donaldson, CDC Staff  
Matt Becker, CDC Staff  
Erick Scheminske - Deputy Director, Office of State Planning and Budgeting  
Rep. Don Coram  
Kathryn Hill - CDD, History Colorado  
Cliff Brefford - Director, Ute Indian Museum

Telephone: 970-564-5606

Fax: 970-564-5709

Chief Jack House, Last Traditional Chief 1896-1972