

Colorado Cultural and Historic Resources Alliance (CCAHR)

Vision

Prepare. Respond. Recover. Resilient.

Building resilience to anticipate, withstand, and recover from disasters.

Mission

The whole community approach advocates that communities leverage all available resources to effectively manage disasters. Together, emergency management personnel and community members can organize and strengthen the community's assets and capabilities. The Colorado Cultural and Historic Resources Alliance (CCAHR) works to improve the State of Colorado's mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts for cultural and historic resources.

Strategic Goals

Mitigation

Goal 1: Local Mitigation Planning

Encourage local cultural and historic leadership's membership and participation in local mitigation planning efforts. Colorado Office of Emergency Management Mitigation specialists will emphasize the need to incorporate cultural and historic Subject Matter Experts (SME) into local planning groups to ensure their needs are recognized as well as their impact upon the community. Additionally, it may be determined that some mitigation efforts in the area may have a potential benefit to the locality and may provide an opportunity to incorporate these into the future projects section of the plan, thereby making them eligible for Pre-Disaster Mitigation funds (PDM) through a competitive grant process.

Goal 2: State Mitigation Planning

Encourage cultural and historic leadership's membership and participation in state mitigation planning efforts. Colorado Office of Emergency Management Mitigation specialists will emphasize the need to incorporate cultural and historic SMEs into state plans to ensure their needs are recognized as well as their impact upon the state.

Goal 3: Risk Assessments

Encourage local cultural and historic organizations to perform risk assessments of cultural and historic resources in their community. Available funds include Emergency Management Program Grant (EMPG) which would allow for local organizations to perform these assessments themselves or to hire a contractor to provide this service. A risk assessment includes determining which types of hazards provide the largest amount of risk towards a resource (flood, earthquake, wildfire, etc.) and assessing

what actions need to be taken (internal sprinkler system, floodproofing, etc.) to better protect the resource. As part of the risk assessment process we encourage that leaders reach out to their local first responders to perform a walk-through of their facility to educate them about their collection, where valuable pieces are stored and how to handle items in the event of an emergency. Potential resources to achieve this goal include:

Goal 4: Outreach to Emergency Management and Cultural & Historic Communities

Encourage CCAHRA members to share information about the efforts of CCAHRA and emergency preparedness through outreach efforts to the EM and CHR communities.

Preparedness

Goal 5: Disaster Exercises

Encourage members of the Cultural and Historic community to participate in local and state Emergency Management exercises, thereby further establishing relationships between Emergency Managers and the Cultural and Historic community. This will also present an opportunity for the Cultural and Historic community to gain skills and knowledge of Emergency Management disaster response and recovery processes, as well as network with local first responders to determine their willingness to perform risk assessment walk-throughs of their facility. CCAHRA may also provide Cultural and Historic injects to local and state exercise training managers to ensure strong tie in of these types of resources into exercising.

Goal 6: Network of CHR Contacts

Systematically identify existing databases which keep records of cultural and historic resources throughout the state as well as points of contact within organizations that have access to the database and are SMEs. This comprehensive analysis will then allow those whom are in local or the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to contact those individuals to determine if any Cultural and Historic Resources have been or have the potential to be affected. They may then provide this information up through the chain of command and ensure actions may be taken preemptively to protect these resources or ensure that their losses are included in later damage assessments.

Goal 7: Programmatic Agreements

Establish Programmatic Agreements between the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure a quicker recovery of Cultural and Historic Resources post disaster. This effort will mostly relate to the built environment and archaeological sites.

Goal 8: CCAHRA Response & Recovery Team

Establish, train and credential a team to provide technical assistance for risk assessments, to represent Cultural and Historic resources in local/state emergency operations centers (EOCs) and to participate in recovery efforts.

Response

Goal 9: State Operations Planning

Encourage cultural and historic leadership's membership and participation in state operation planning efforts. Colorado Office of Emergency Management Mitigation specialists will emphasize the need to incorporate cultural and historic SMEs into state plans to ensure their needs are recognized as well as their impact upon the state.

Goal 10: Activate & Demobilize CCAHRA Response & Recovery Team

Develop procedures to activate and to demobilize the CCAHRA Response & Recovery Team.

Goal 11: Identify Resources/Vendors to Potentially Activate During an Incident

Compile information about possible resources, vendors, etc that may be activated during an incident and include in the EOC binder.

Recovery

Goal 12: State Recovery Planning

Encourage cultural and historic leadership's membership and participation in state recovery planning efforts. Colorado Office of Emergency Management Mitigation specialists will emphasize the need to incorporate cultural and historic SMEs into state plans to ensure their needs are recognized as well as their impact upon the state.

Goal 13: Damage Assessments

Provide technical assistance, including performing damage assessments by trained CCAHRA Response & Recovery team members, to affected communities to make certain that they are providing damage to Cultural and Historic Resources to State and Federal officials for inclusion in damage assessment numbers.

Goal 14: Local Recovery Guide for Cultural and Historic Resources

Create a guide for local officials specific to Cultural and Historic Resources recovery including available funding opportunities. Look at information from Heritage Preservation.

Roles & Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders

Center for Colorado & the West

Founded in 2009 and situated in downtown Denver, the Center for Colorado & the West at Auraria Library (CC&W) preserves history and creates knowledge about Colorado and the West.

CC&W serves as the institutional home for the Colorado Cultural and Historic Resources Alliance (CCAHR). CC&W provides support for CCAHR's initiatives such as financial administration, marketing support, technology support, website development, and office space and equipment.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee oversees the advancement of the CCAHR's vision, mission and strategic goals through myriad efforts including grant writing, organizing quarterly meetings, and maintaining the listserv and roster of participating institutions.

The Steering Committee consists of one representative from the following institutions:

- Auraria Library, University of Colorado Denver Representative
- Center for Colorado & the West Representative
- Colorado Office of Emergency Management Representative
- History Colorado Representative
- 2 or 3 Members-At-Large (e.g. Colorado Association of Libraries, the Colorado State Library, Colorado Wyoming Museum Association, the Association of Northern Front Range Museums, Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists)

In turn, a representative from CCAHR will serve on the CC&W steering committee for the Connecting to Collections IMLS grant.

Advisory Council

The Advisory Council helps shape the vision, mission, and strategic goals of the CCAHR by providing counsel to the Steering Committee on strategic, operational, and financial matters. The Advisory Council is a dynamic group, transforming to meet the current needs of the Steering Committee. The Advisory Council consists of representatives from the CCAHR'S participating institutions and partners such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Department of Interior, Heritage Preservation, and Western States and Territories Preservation Assistance Service (WESTPAS).

Members

CCAHR'S core strength lies in the institutions and individuals interested in contributing towards its vision, mission, and goals. The emergency management and cultural heritage communities understand the highest priorities are life safety, property protection, primary home dwellings, public infrastructure, and private enterprise. They also recognize the value and importance of our society's cultural heritage resources and work cooperatively to provide assistance, primarily using existing resources and subject matter experts drawn from cultural heritage institutions through mutual aid agreements.