The board and staff of the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum have undertaken a three-year campaign to raise $6 million for an endowment to ensure the organization’s sustainability. We have partnered with the Avenir Foundation and the Denver Foundation to assure the success of the campaign and to guarantee prudent stewardship and careful oversight of the endowment.

The NMHFM has been engaging the public in Leadville, Colorado since 1987. We are the only federally-chartered mining museum in the U.S., but receive no federal, state, or local government funding. The NMHFM is ideally located in a historically significant and authentic mining town, the highest incorporated city in North America. With the extreme weather and seasonal fluctuations in tourism, the utility bills for our large, century-old building tend to increase at the same time our annual revenues fall off.

A $6 million endowment will provide $200,000-$250,000 in income each year, reducing the impact of seasonal financial fluctuations and ensuring the organization’s sustainability. An endowment will enable the board and staff to focus their energy on preserving the historic record of American mining and developing cutting-edge exhibits and programs to educate the public about the importance of mining to their daily lives.

As part of the campaign, we are offering naming rights to exhibit rooms and other spaces in and around the NMHFM, as well as engraved paving bricks that will be part of a new walkway. Naming a space or brick seen by visitors from around the world is a wonderful way to memorialize yourself, a friend, a relative, or a colleague. Thanks to the Avenir Foundation’s generosity, we are offering...
On September 14th, as the sun set over the Mile High City, dinner was underway for the 32nd Annual National Mining Hall of Fame Induction Banquet! The NMHFM returned to the Pinnacle Club at the Grand Hyatt this year.

Attendees turned out in style to honor this year’s recipients with a permanent place in the Hall of Fame alongside the likes of Meyer Guggenheim, Herbert Hoover, Alfred Nobel, Georgius Agricola, and recent inductees such as J. David Lowell, Stanley Dempsey and Gordon Parker.
Call for Nominations

The nomination process is open to the public. Anyone may submit a nomination that meets the criteria as outlined for the awards.

Criteria and submission requirements may be found on our website at mininghalloffame.org.

Submit letters of nomination now for 2020 induction and the Prazen Living Legend of Mining Award.

Nominations are due by December 31.

The 33rd Annual National Mining Hall of Fame Induction Banquet will be held in Las Vegas on September 26, 2020!

SME Past-President and President of Prep-Tech, Dr. Barbara Arnold, served as the 2019 Master of Ceremonies.

Clockwise from top left: Young Professionals Alexis Thompson, Brian Thompson & Jacqueline Pisoni; Peg LeVier, prior inductee Len Harris and wife Rosa Harris enjoy a cocktail with NMHFM Executive Director, Steve Whittington; Tucker and Alexandra Jensen enjoy the festivities with prior inductees Gordon Parker & Stanley Dempsey at the Royal Gold table; Mike Rosenbaum of Sketchy Faces captures the likeness of Jacqueline Pisoni at the young professionals after-party; Supporters of Mother Jones’ induction including representatives from UMWA, United Steel Workers Union and University of Colorado Denver; Colorado School of Mines and Front Range Community College students volunteered to help the NMHFM again this year.
The High Grade

Boom Days Activities Attract A Crowd

The annual Boom Days celebration in Leadville, Colorado took place on the weekend of August 2nd-4th. The annual festivities include burro races, gunfights in the street, and numerous competitions to test the skills of miners and wannabees.

The National Mining Hall of Fame once again sponsored children’s activities at the museum, designed to teach young people about the mining industry.

Gold panning was a major hit, staffed by Executive Director Steve Whittington, VSR/Docent Brenda Miller and Volunteer Extraordinaire Fred Mark. The kids loved the lessons in panning and were full of excitement at the opportunity to take home some gold.

In addition, the NMHFM provided interactive stations for mineral identification, learning about Mine Rescue, and a game with birdseed designed to show kids how only a small percentage of exploration efforts actually turn into mines.
New Exhibit Human Imprint: Women at Historic Colorado Mining Sites

We were excited to unveil a new exhibit at the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum in late September. This art exhibition showcases the work of Denver artist Sarah Gjertson who works in several different mediums. By travelling around the state of Colorado to abandoned mining towns, she puts herself in the shoes of those who once lived there. Her work explores themes of nostalgia, how the expectations of womanhood change over time, and the utilization of objects in our daily lives.

Gjertson earned her MFA from the School of Art & Art History at the University of Denver. Her research and studio practice have explored the experience of womanhood in America and the personal and social potency of nostalgia and longing.

Her art would not be possible without visits to historic sites, most of which are 100-150 years old. She explains, “I am not interested in the “gold rush” aspect of these sites, but am compelled by the human imprint that remains there — the evidence of ingenuity, curious artifacts, skeletons of architectural structures and evidence of the hand. This lineage of the handmade is exciting to me as an artist and maker, exploring the histories of these sites and the people who inhabited them through prints, sculptures, photographs…”

The work incorporates a primary aesthetic of decay, and strives to address the mythology of the American West. She hopes her work will inspire conversation regarding the almost invisible role of non-elite women, beyond work as prostitutes. Her work also draws on research she has conducted in various historical archives from around the state of Colorado.

Visitors will notice a contrast in subjects of the photography, prints, and sculptures exhibited. Gjertson focuses on gloves, shoe soles, and delicate pieces such as painted china and mother-of-pearl buttons alongside rough-hewn timbers, rusty cans, and decaying buildings, all evidence of the presence of women, whose stories she hopes to reveal in this project.

This exhibition will be on display through the end of February 2020.
The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum conducted its Raffle Drawing for historic pieces of the Matchless Mine on Sunday, August 4th. As part of their fundraising efforts to support major restoration and preservation of the Matchless Mine Hoist House, the Museum sold chances to win one of five pieces of the original Matchless Headframe.

In 2017, the NMHFM conducted extensive restoration and preservation work on the Shaft #6 headframe, one of the few remaining structures at the historic Matchless Mine. The Matchless is best known for being the wealth-builder of the illustrious Tabors. The headframe was in danger of falling down and becoming a remnant of its historic past until it became possible, with the help of history-minded donors, to replace and restore the timbers. Former museum staff member Bill Nelson had the forethought to save a small section of one support beam from the original headframe structure. Subsequently, this was sliced into 15 pieces which were engraved as historic collectables. The slicing and engraving were donated by local artists Ron Bosanko and Peter Frykholm.

Mayor Greg Labbe was on hand to draw the winning tickets.

For local winners Carol Glenn, Lori Ten Eyck and Becky Edwards, it is hoped that they will treasure these bits of history as a memento of the people and industry that created their home town. Board member Charles McNeil also won a slice.

Ten more slices of the historic Matchless Headframe have been reserved by the NMHFM for a future fundraising effort. The details for another chance to win one of these treasures are still in the planning stages. It may be another raffle, or they may appear in a silent auction, but the Museum will let everyone know when plans are finalized.
The High Grade

Events Calendar

**Fall**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. Oct. 31st</td>
<td>Hard Rock Mine Trick or Treat at the National Mining Hall of Fame &amp; Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 PM—7:00 PM</td>
<td>120 W 9th Street</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leadville, CO</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free for kids of all ages</td>
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<td>* Not haunted house</td>
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**Winter**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. Nov. 21st</td>
<td>Leadville/Lake County Chamber Business After Hours—Open to Chamber members &amp; their guests</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 PM-7:30 PM</td>
<td>$7 per person plus non-perishable food item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. Dec. 6th</td>
<td>Community Appreciation Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 AM-8:00 PM</td>
<td>Free admission for Lake County Residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. Feb. 7, 2020</td>
<td>Spirits in the Shaft - A wine, beer &amp; whiskey tasting event set in the Roaring 1920s! Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment guaranteeing women federal constitutional right to vote</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tickets on sale soon!</td>
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**Summer Visitors**

Each and every visitor to the NMHFM is of great importance to us. This summer we had several guests with notable ties to the museum.

Margo Hennebach, daughter of Ralph Hennebach, for whom the Hennebach Wing is named, and husband Mark Saunders visited the museum in July. Margo had never seen the museum nor the wing of it named for her father. She and Mark had tried to visit 20 years ago but an accident on I-70 derailed that trip to Leadville.

The very next day, Karl Boaz and his family visited the museum to see the sculptures of Karl's second cousin, Gary Prazen. They had no idea the museum houses so many of Gary's works and did not know that Gary crafted the mannequins in the hard rock mine as well as in the coal room.

Margo Hennebach and husband Mark Saunders

Jeff, Knox and Chris Boaz, with friend Cathy Craig
The Watts Museum, formerly known as the COMER Museum is located on the campus of West Virginia University, and houses a collection of historical artifacts and archival materials from the mining and petroleum industries. Recognizing their state’s mining heritage, West Virginia University is now displaying the Eat Sleep Mine exhibit, which is a collection of photographs by George Pickow. Pickow is also known for his work in the music industry, which was used for album covers for many of the great folk, jazz and pop music artists. His photographs have also been published in Life, National Geographic and Cosmopolitan magazines. The photographs for the Eat, Sleep, Mine exhibit officially became part of the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum’s collection in 2015. The exhibit premiered in Leadville in March 2016. Pickow’s photographs capture the social and emotional aspects of the people who make a living in the mining industry. The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum is open to loaning this exhibit to other museums. Contact curator Myles Gallagher for details.
On August 17th, the Chaffee County Writers Exchange (CCWE) held a WeWrite session at the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum. Meeting in the Moolick Library, the group discussed the essential elements of writing a mystery story and then searched designated rooms for characters, clues, plots and red herrings they could incorporate into their stories with a mining theme.

The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum has the option of using some of their work in future fundraising efforts, should the opportunity arise.

CCWE’s membership includes both professional and non-published authors. The variety of imaginative ideas resulting from this meeting was astounding, even with the authors having little knowledge of mining. Although this particular session was all about mysteries, the members write in many different styles and genres.

During the three-hour session, members picked up some interesting clues to work with, including a possibly diabolical use of an arras-tra! The writers then spent the next few days, up to two weeks, writing short stories to be shared in the near future.

“The true mystery of the world is the visible, not the invisible.” Oscar Wilde

Endowment Campaign, continued from page 1

We have established The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum Working Capital Endowment Fund with the Denver Foundation. Our fund will be pooled with more than $800 million in assets that the Denver Foundation currently stewards, providing a cushion against market fluctuations and good growth potential.

Donations to the endowment campaign are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. As an added incentive, donations up to $750,000 annually may qualify for a 25% Colorado State Income Tax credit.

Contact Steve Whittington, Executive Director, at (719) 486-1229 or direktor@mininghalloffame.org with questions or for more information. Won’t you join the Avenir Foundation and other donors in helping us tell the story of mining, its people, its importance to the American public, and to society’s sustainability? A pledge form for the endowment campaign is inserted into this newsletter. Please express your interest by filling it out and returning it to us today!
The High Grade

How about a Guys or Girls day out for Holiday Shopping at the NMHFM Gift Shop?

New facets & prisms of color $10—$40

Everyone’s favorite campfire mugs $15

Hours of entertainment for the kids from $8

And to wrap it all up...

Unique and eye-catching jewelry for men & women from $50 with other lines available for less

Mineral themed gift wrap, cards & candles for all! From $3
Teamwork is a major part of working at the National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum. With a limited budget, and almost 25,000 square feet of space, we need every one of our staff members to put in 100%. Sometimes those staff members don’t receive the attention and thanks they deserve.

June Lucas joined the NMHFM team at the end of April this year, as the Museum’s housekeeper. Her efforts are critical to keeping visitors to the museum feeling like they are spending their time and money in an institution that pays attention to quality.

While we may inhabit an old building, June keeps the floors vacuumed and the restrooms fresh, adding to the overall appearance of our mining showcase. First impressions are a big key to satisfaction, and we thank her for the hard work and support.

June has lived in Leadville her entire life, and prior to joining NMHFM, she served in a similar role at the Lake County Public Library.

Ryan Lacy started as Maintenance Technician in early May. He is doing an amazing job of tending to the needs of this aging facility. He brings versatility, common sense and many handy skills to his position here at the NMHFM.

In addition to all of his maintenance chores, Ryan has been helping our curator to create new displays and functional pieces for the exhibits.

Ryan has lived in Leadville for most of his life and brings an understanding of local conditions as they apply to the NMHFM facilities. He previously worked at Bighorn Hardware and was maintenance manager at Walmart in Salida, Colorado.

Say hello to June and Ryan next time you visit the museum!

Happy Autumn!
The High Grade

“Tell the story of mining, its people, its importance to the American public, and to society’s sustainability.”

A federally chartered non-profit, located in the famous 1880s silver boomtown of Leadville, Colorado at the top of the Rocky Mountains, the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum is a monument to the memory of the men and women who pioneered the discovery, development, and processing of our nation's natural resources.

Known as the “Smithsonian of the Rockies” and the “Premier Showcase of American Mining,” the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum was established in 1987. Our museum houses 25,000 square feet of interactive and informative exhibits showcasing our collection of mining's colorful past, present, and future. Come in and discover why mining matters to you!