

**Leah Davis Witherow**

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**EDUCATION:**

**California State University at Long Beach**

Bachelor of Arts Degree in History, 1992

Certificate in Eastern European and Russian Studies, 1992

**University of Colorado at Colorado Springs**

Master of Arts Degree in History, 1997

**ACADEMIC/TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

**University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, Lecturer**

**2000-Present**

**University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, History Department**

**Instructor, 2013 – 2016**

*Cultural History of Colonial America*

*Colorado History*

*Introduction to Public History*

*United States Expansion and Division 1789-1866*

*Emergence of Modern America 1865-1920*

*American Culture and Reform: 1880-1920*

*History of the American Southwest*

*History of American Labor*

*Senior Thesis*

*Welcome to the World's Fair*

*Public History Internship*

*Suffrage & Citizenship*

*Introduction to Museum Studies & Gallery Practice*

*Exhibit Design & Development*

**AWARDS:**

UCCS, College of Letters, Arts & Sciences "Outstanding Lecturer," 2014

Colorado Springs Business Journal's, "Woman of Influence," 2018

## ***EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:***

**Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum**, City of Colorado Springs, Colorado Springs, CO  
**Curator of History** January 2011 – the present

**Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum**, City of Colorado Springs, Colorado Springs, CO  
**Archivist**, January 1997 to 2010

**Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum**, City of Colorado Springs, Colorado Springs, CO  
**Assistant Archivist**, January, 1996 to January, 1997

**American Academy of Forensic Sciences**, Contract Historian, January 1995 to January 1996

## ***PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:***

- **Certified Archivist**, Academy of Certified Archivists, 2001 - 2016
- Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists: **President** 2002-2003, **Past-President** 2003-2004
- Colorado & Wyoming Association of Museums: Membership Secretary:
- Phi Alpha Theta: **Chapter President** 1995-1997
- Teaching American History Grant Lecturer and Committee Member: 2005 - 2015

## ***CONFERENCE PAPERS AND COMMITTEES:***

- **AASLH, Local Arrangements Committee and Conference Speaker, 1997**  
“Practical Approaches for Museums with Small Archives”
- **Midwest Archives Conference, Program Committee and Conference Speaker, 1999**  
“It’s Child’s Play: Developing Kid Friendly Programs”
- **Midwest Archives Conference, Conference Speaker, 2002, 2004**  
“We Are Not Alone: Exploring Other Professions That Document History”  
“Who Are You and Why Should I Care: Marketing Your Archives”
- **Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists, Conference Speaker and Local Arrangements Committee; 1998, 2002, 2007, 2008**  
“Learning From Museums: Dealing with Non-Paper Objects in Our Collections”  
“Advocating Archives: Education and Outreach”  
“You are What You Collect — You Collect What You Are”  
“If the Shoe Fits — Interpret It! Making the Most of Material Culture Objects in Your Archives”
- **Western History Association, Session Chair and Moderator, 2002**  
“Enlightening Colorado Springs: Medical, Suffrage, and Indian Reform Ideas Move West”
- **Plains and Peaks Library District, Conference Speaker, 2002**  
“Collecting and Preserving Archival Collections”
- **Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museums, Conference Speaker, 2003**

“Archives 101 for Non-Archivists”

- **Purdue University, American Studies Department, Invited Speaker, Fall 2004**

“Clearing Away the Dust: Why Archives Matter”

- **Mountain - Plains Museums Association, 2006**

“The Relationship between Curators and Collectors”

- **Pikes Peak Library District Symposium, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2014, 2017, 2018**

“Marketing the Mountain: Pikes Peak in the Popular Imagination”

“Death is the Poor Man’s Doctor: Caring for the Destitute in Colorado Springs”

“Selling this City: The Commercial Photography of Harry L. Standley”

“A Study of Influences: The Close Friends & Business Associates of General William Jackson Palmer”

“Defining and Aesthetic for Colorado Springs: The Work of Thomas MacLaren”

“A Search For Identity: The Life and Work of Civil Rights Activist Charles Banks”

- **Society for the Study of American Women Writers, 2018**

“Home and Hearth: Using Objects to Interpret the Personal and Professional Lives of Helen Hunt Jackson”

- **Colorado Saving Places Conference 2018**

“Where Was That? Preserving and Understanding Community History with GIS Tools”

- **El Pomar Foundation Heritage Series 2019 “**

“Pikes Peak in the Popular Imagination”

- **Frequently Invited Speaker: Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, WES of Colorado College, League of Women Voters, FOGG, WCLI, AAUW, PPLD, McAllister House Museum, Colorado College, UCCS, PPCC, CSU Pueblo, William Jackson Palmer High School, among many others.**

## **EXHIBITS CURATED:**

*Capturing Colorado: The Photographs of Harry L. Standley*

*Marketing the Mountain: Pikes Peak in the Popular Imagination*

*General William Jackson Palmer: One Man and His Vision*

*100 Years of Photography: A Bill Bowers Retrospective*

*Going for the Gold: Pikes Peak or Bust Gold Rush (Co-Curator)*

*So Far From Home: The American POW Experience in World War II*

*Any Place North and West: African Americans in Colorado Springs*

*Behind the Lens: Photographers of the Pikes Peak Region*

*Framing Community: Focusing on Identity*

*From Paris to the Plains: The Artistry of Artus and Ann Van Briggie*

*Cultural Crossroads: Highlights from the Collection*  
*Pedal Power: Cycling through Colorado Springs History*  
*Fujiyoshida: Our Sister City*  
*From the Ashes: The Waldo Canyon Fire*  
*Journey to Pikes Peak*  
*Caring For Those Less Fortunate: The Myron Stratton Home*  
*Memories of a Massacre: Perspectives on Ludlow*  
*The Midas Touch: The Penrose & Tutt Partnership*  
*Chasing the Cure in Colorado Springs*  
*From Sanatorium to Scholarship: Commemorating 50 Years of UCCS*  
*City of Sunshine*  
*With An Artist's Brush*  
*The Art & Facts of Business*  
*Beads, Blankets & Buffalo: Trade at Bent's Fort*  
*The Story of Us: The Pikes Peak Region A – Z*  
*The League of Wives: Vietnam's POW/MIA Allies and Advocates* (local curator)  
*Pikes Peak Community College: Celebrating 50 Years of Colorado Springs' History*  
*A Home of One's Own: The Life of Helen Hunt Jackson*  
*Francis Drexel Smith: A Legacy on Canvas*  
*[Dis]Information: American Indians Through the Lens of Roland Reed*  
*Evidence: Finding the Facts About General William Jackson Palmer*  
*Una Familia Grande: The Conejos Neighborhood Project*  
*This Shall be the Land For Women: The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment & Colorado Springs*  
*COS@150* (forthcoming)  
*Cultural Crossroads: Deep History in the Pikes Peak Region* (forthcoming)

## **PUBLICATIONS:**

“Marketing the Mountain: Pikes Peak in the Popular Imagination,” in *To Spare No Pains: Zebulon Montgomery Pike and his 1806-1807 Southwest Expedition: A Bicentennial Commemoration*.

“Selling this City: The Commercial Photography of Harry L. Standley,” in *Film and Photography on the Front Range*

“A Question of Conscience: William Jackson Palmer and His Quaker Faith,” in *Legends, Labors and Loves: William Jackson Palmer, 1836-1909*.

“The Story of Us: Place-Making through Public Interaction with Digital Geo-Humanities in Colorado Springs,” *International Journal for Humanities and Arts Computing*

*“Art and Architecture at the Fountain Valley School,” forthcoming*

## **Consulting Historian for Television/Film/Radio**

Colorado Experience: *Fannie Mae Duncan* 2018, Colorado Experience: *Glen Eyrie Castle* 2019

CSPAN: *BookTV Helen Hunt Jackson* 2014, CSPAN: *William Jackson Palmer*

NPR: *America the Beautiful* 2019, The History Channel: *The Tesla Files* 2018, among others.