

  
**BRECKENRIDGE**  
HISTORY

**2025**  
**Annual**  
**Report**



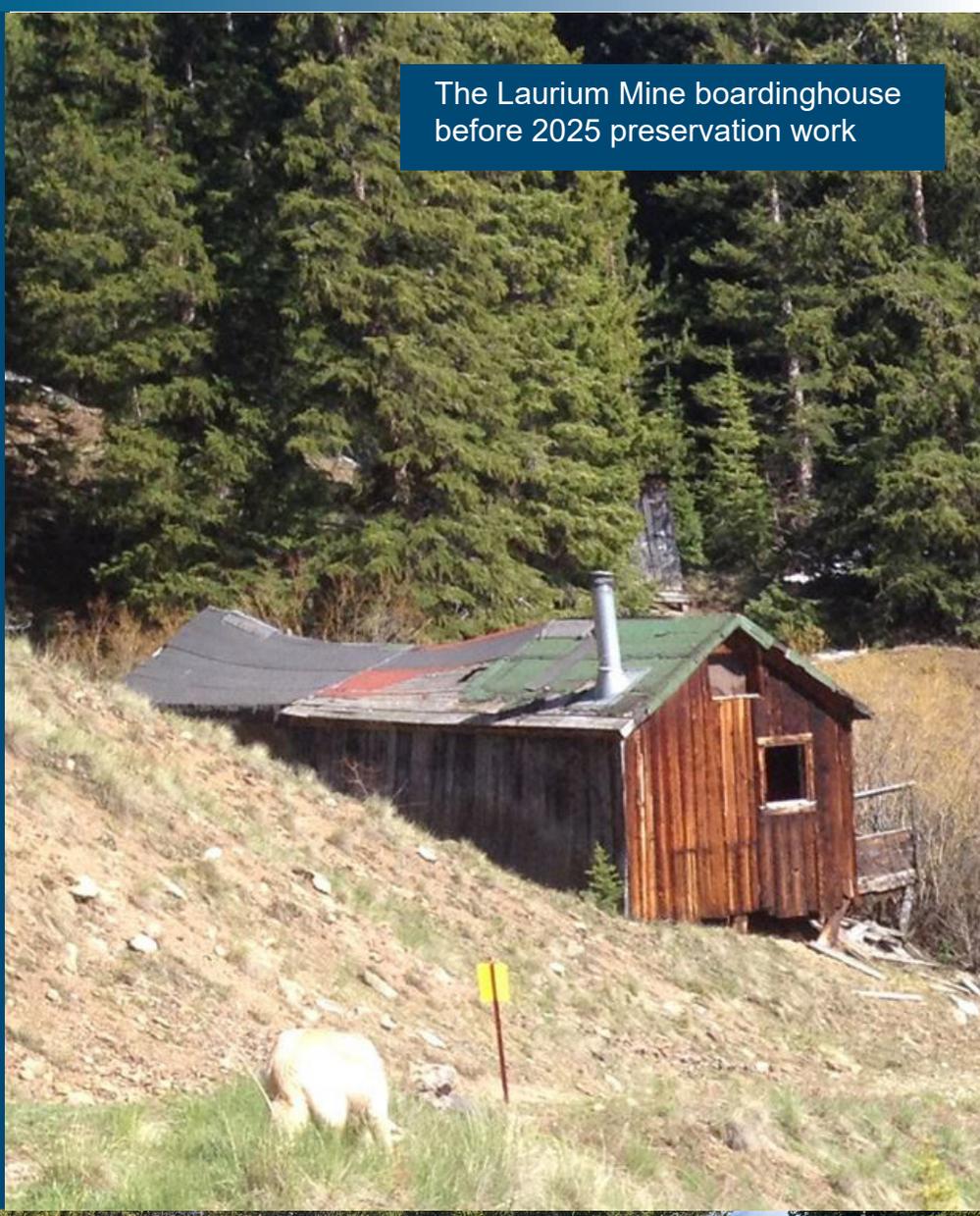


## OUR VISION

Breckenridge History is a community-supported, nationally recognized leader in local historic preservation, historical interpretation, and tourism.

## OUR MISSION

Breckenridge History enhances our community's future by discovering, preserving, and sharing our diverse and extraordinary history.



The Laurium Mine boardinghouse before 2025 preservation work



The Laurium Mine boardinghouse after 2025 preservation work



Dear Breckenridge History Supporters,

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In 2025, a new plaque appeared outside the Barney Ford Museum — small in size, but national in meaning. The museum's designation by the National Park Service as a National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom site places Breckenridge within a story of resistance, courage, and civil rights that reaches far beyond our mountain town. As part of a network of more than 800 sites connected to resistance against slavery — and only the second in Colorado — the recognition reflects years of research that expanded our understanding of Barney Ford's emancipation efforts and lifelong leadership in the fight for equality. His story continues to resonate far beyond Breckenridge.

We also celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Edwin Carter Museum. When Carter began assembling his Rocky Mountain fauna collection, Breckenridge was still a fledgling mining town. Within years of Carter's museum opening in 1875, visitors traveled from across the country to see his world-class taxidermy displays. Last year's milestone invited us to reflect on Carter's lasting impact — how his curiosity, observation of nature, and scientific mindset still inform how we understand the natural world today. The anniversary also inspired museum updates coming in 2026. We look forward to sharing more as that work progresses.

Nearly a century after Carter's time, Breckenridge entered another period of rapid change. The 1970s and '80s brought expansion at the ski area, new town infrastructure projects and large-scale construction. Original footage of this era, filmed by Lee Lucas and preserved in our archives, became the foundation for Breckenridge Rewind, a 60-minute highlight reel created in collaboration with Breck Film. The premiere filled the Riverwalk Center with more than 700 people sharing laughter, memories, and a sense of connection reminiscent of the tight-knit community Lucas captured on film.

Across our museums, backcountry sites, trails, and classrooms, we connected with more than 2,000 local students, offered year-round guided experiences for visitors and residents, and preserved several deteriorated mining-era landmarks. Behind the scenes, the Breckenridge History Archives surpassed 2,000 digital objects, historic newspapers were digitized through a state grant, and new objects were brought into our collection for safekeeping — some of which will appear in future exhibits. As we look ahead to 2026 — a year of major national and state anniversaries — we're reminded that preserving stories from every era helps us understand where we've been and where we're headed. Thank you for being part of that work.

With gratitude,

Larissa O'Neil  
Executive Director

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[breckhistory.org](http://breckhistory.org)



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Administrative Office

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Breckenridge, CO 80424



**BRECKENRIDGE  
HISTORY**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Jerry Dziedzic, *President*
- Peter Grosshuesch, *Vice President*
- Allyn Mosher, *Treasurer*
- Larry Crispell, *Secretary*
- Rob Dollars
- Johanna Gibbs
- Mike Giller
- Nick Johnson
- Dennis Kuhn
- Emily Lutke
- Sarah Wilkinson
  
- Todd Rankin, *Town Council Representative*
- Mark Truckey, *Town Staff Representative*

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- Halle Belby
- Jim Bradley
- Sherrie Calderini
- Morgan Cantrell
- Cassi Clark Ward-Hunt
- Preston Cooper
- Jen Couture
- Craig Cummings
- Jim Davis
- Bob Dickman
- Ripley Elliott
- Bob Ensign
- Carolyn Gentling
- Leigh Girvin
- Susan Juergensmeier
  
- Jo Keats
- Lauren MacManes
- Ferol Menzel
- Mariana Pereda
- Emily Noble
- Diana Reznikoff
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- Isaac Salazar
- Amber Salazar
- Jill Slater
- Kate Tofig
- Siena Tofig
- Sharon Trumbore
- Rebecca Zobbe

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

- Larissa O’Neil, *Executive Director*
- June Walters, *Manager of Public Engagement*
- Susan Gilmore, *Marketing & Community Outreach Manager*
- Kris Ann Knish, *Archivist & Museum Collections Manager*
  
- Michele Chapdelaine, *Office Administrator*
- Alison Leonhart, *Office Assistant*
- Scott Toepfer, *Fixer*

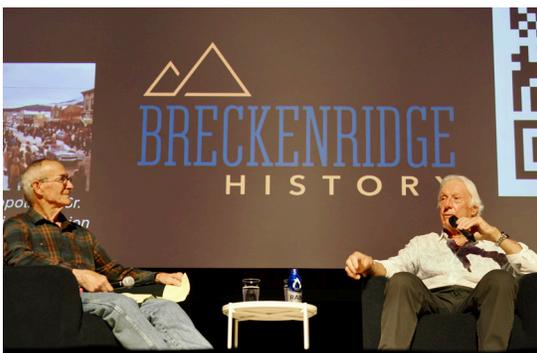


## Edwin Carter Museum

150 years ago, Edwin Carter built a log cabin to house a museum, eventually showcasing an astounding collection of 3,300 taxidermied animals. A true pioneer, Carter was not only a gold prospector but also a naturalist whose passion for wildlife shaped Colorado's scientific heritage. His specimens became the foundation of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, leaving a lasting legacy. Today, you can step into history at the same cabin, now the Edwin Carter Museum, where his story comes to life and a selection of his specimens remain on display.

**“Bob gave us delightful tour of this fantastic museum. Everyone should come here to learn about this fabulous collection and the history of preserving so many critters!”**





## 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Edwin Carter Museum opening to the public in 1875.** Once home to more than 3,300 taxidermy specimens — the founding collection of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science — the space was refreshed by relocating select specimens to the central gallery and installing arsenic-green wallpaper, a nod to taxidermy chemicals used in Carter's era. Additional interactive elements and expanded storytelling are planned for 2026.
- **Expanded digital access to local history, surpassing 2,000 online archive objects** at [breckhistoryarchives.org](https://breckhistoryarchives.org). Additions included photographs from the Mary M. Marks Collection and new materials in the Advertising and Ephemera Collection, with many images available for free download.
- **Preserved the Laurium Mine boardinghouse** through careful dismantling, a full inventory of historic fabric, site regrading for improved drainage, and reconstruction of the structure board by board. Long-standing drainage issues were also corrected at the nearby blacksmith shop.
- **Stabilized two cabins at the Preston townsite** in Gold Run Gulch, with support from the Saddle Rock Society.
- **Preserved original railroad trestle bents** spanning the Blue River near the south end of town — the last remaining physical feature of the original High Line through Breckenridge.
- **Protected the Wellington Ore Bin in French Gulch** from further vandalism, with a dedicated crew that hand-carried materials and tools to the site.
- **Stabilized the Reiling punt**, a dinghy boat used by operators of the Reiling dredge, by constructing a new base to safely lift the structure off the ground.
- **Debuted Breckenridge Rewind at the Riverwalk Center to an audience of more than 700.** In partnership with Breck Film, we transformed Lee Lucas's 1980s footage housed in the Breckenridge History Archives into a one-hour highlight reel capturing the town's playful spirit during that era — from skiing and skateboarding to pub crawls and air bands. Lucas documented local life from 1972–1992 through Lucas Video Productions, The Photo Shop Video Productions and ZLTV Breckenridge.



- Received a Colorado State Library grant to digitize historic newspapers in our collection, including the Daily Journal (Breckenridge), Summit County Star and Blue Valley Times, now accessible for free through the Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection.

- Received a State Historical Fund grant to research and prepare a National Historic Landmark nomination for the Barney Ford Museum—part of a federal program that designates the nation's most significant historic sites.

- Launched the Eves of History evening event series, offering extended museum hours and activities in connection with major town events such as the Breckenridge International Festival of Arts and Independence Day.

- Hosted Aspen Historical Society and Ute tribal member Skyler Lomahaftewa for an evening program on Ute history at the Edwin Carter Museum, in partnership with Friends of the Dillon Ranger District.

- Reopened the historic Briggle House for educational programs while also providing much-needed rehearsal space for National Repertory Orchestra musicians.

- Provided educational programming to more than 2,000 students, including expanded free afterschool programs at Dillon Valley, Breckenridge, Frisco and Summit Cove elementary schools.

- Offered enrichment activities during unexpected school closures to support local students and families.

- Paired history presentations with music and art at historic sites in collaboration with the National Repertory Orchestra and Breckenridge Creative Arts.

- Managed more than 20 historic sites for public benefit. Maintenance projects included log replacement and bracing at the Klack Cabin as well as repairs to the miner's cabin at Lomax Mine.

- Barney Ford Museum designated a National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom site — only the second site in Colorado to receive this National Park Service honor. The rigorous application process required extensive research that deepened our understanding of Ford's life and enriched the museum experience for visitors.



# Hike The Golden Horseshoe

*“Had an awesome time hiking (and had the option to snowshoe) the Golden Horseshoe with guide Isaac today! Such a fun informative tour!”*



# Hike Home With A Miner

*“Perfect time of year with the fall colors. Susan, our tour guide, knew her history very well, but she knew her audience even better. ...”*



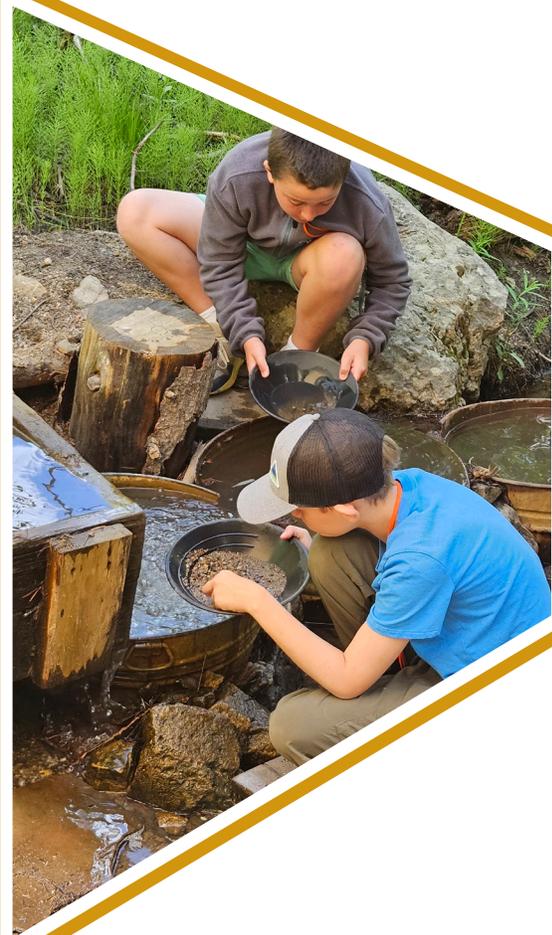
## Walk Through History Tour

*“What a wonderful history that Breckenridge has! Our guide was extremely knowledgeable about the town and about all the historical places and the stories behind the buildings. ...”*



## Gold Panning at Lomax Gulch

*“Experience was amazing and the history was very interesting. Panning for gold was enjoyable for all and my 8 year old had the best time ...”*





# Tombstone Tales Tour

**“Halle our tour guide was fantastic! I learned so much about some of the people who were involved in the early days of Breckenridge with an emphasis of both pre-mining and post mining development.”**

Hear stories about Breckenridge’s movers and shakers, miners, widows and paupers, all of whom are buried in Valley Brook Cemetery. Built in 1882, this cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is the perfect setting to learn about the people who lived and died making our history. Every ornate headstone and unmarked grave shelters the story of a person worth learning about.



## Barney Ford Museum

*“Cassi was a superb guide! She presented the story of Barney Ford in an engaging manner as well as the context in which he lived. ...”*



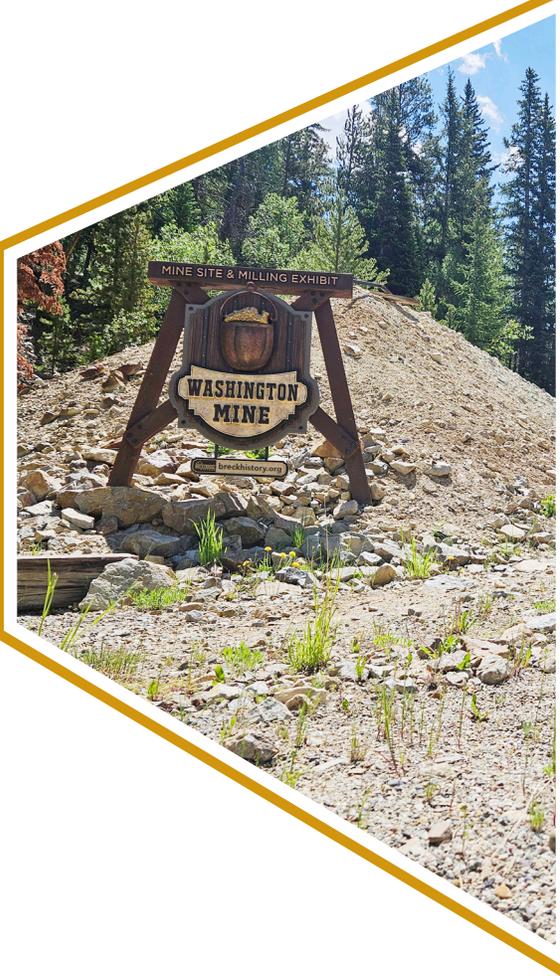
## High Line Railroad Park

*“Great free activity for younger kids in Breck with park and trains. Our kids love trains!”*



# Washington Mine and Milling Exhibit

*“Neat little display that talks about mining technology. Saw a moose, too.”*



# Alice G. Milne Memorial Park

*“A very nice park!! Close to downtown.”*



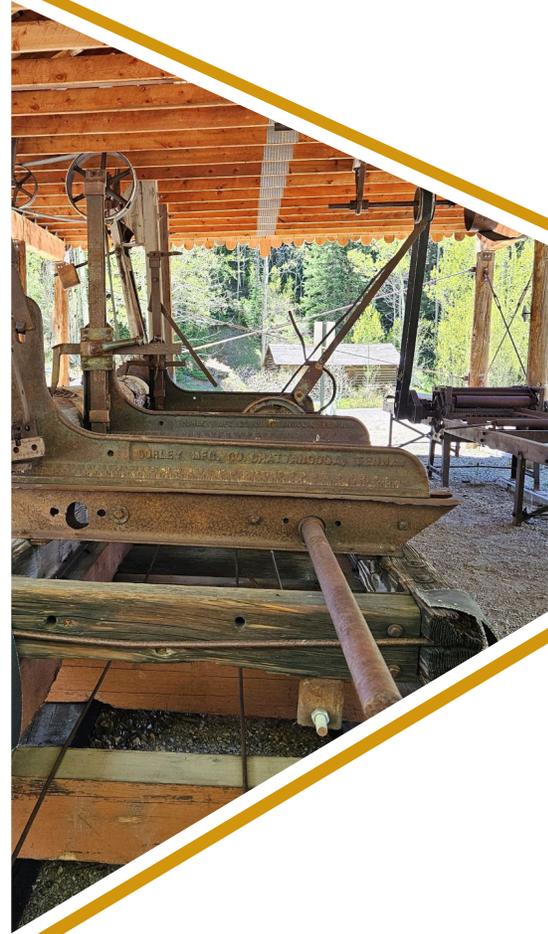
## Welcome Center Museum

*“Absolutely fantastic. Sherrie our tour guide was so knowledgeable and friendly, answering all our many questions.”*



## Breckenridge Sawmill Museum

*“I love that places like this have been preserved for the world to experience. I think it does us a huge justice to see ...”*





# School Programs



Breckenridge History offers school programs throughout the year at our historical sites and museums, and in the classroom. We also offer a free afterschool program which rotates to elementary schools throughout Summit County. Our curricula are created to engage students while meeting state educational standards.



## 2025 FINANCIALS

January 1 - December 31

### INCOME

Operations Grants	\$ 10,250
Town of Breckenridge Operating Support	810,000
General Donations & Other Income	17,476
Museum Donations, Tour & Event Income	53,979
Merchandise Sales	3,027
In-Kind Income (Operations)	32,550
Total Operations Income	927,282
Completed Capital Projects Income	1,029,188
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,956,470</b>

### EXPENSES

Business Expenses	\$ 37,759
Merchandise Inventory	1,552
Museum & Facility Expenses	98,476
Program & Event Expenses	6,858
Payroll, Taxes and Benefits	701,759
Archives Expenses	18,837
Advertising	20,023
In-Kind Expenses (Operations)	32,550
Total Operations Expenses	917,814
Completed Capital Projects Expenses	1,029,188
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,947,002</b>

<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 9,468</b>
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2025 SOCIAL MEDIA BY THE NUMBERS

3,015

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

460,606

FACEBOOK REACH

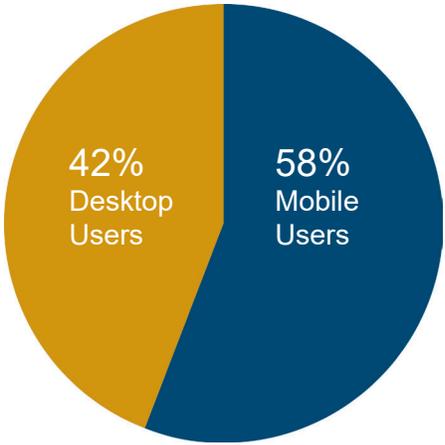
2,356

INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

106,432

INSTAGRAM REACH

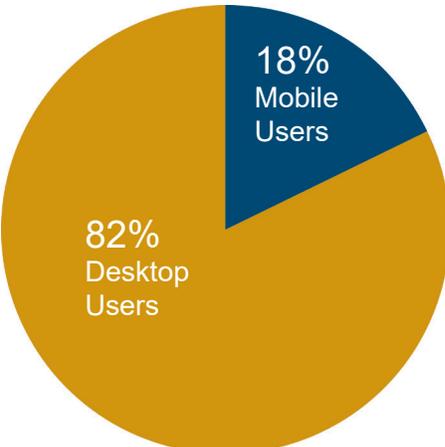
2025 WEBSITE VISITORS



Breckenridge History Website

42,661

TOTAL UNIQUE USERS FOR  
BRECKENRIDGE HISTORY  
WEBSITE

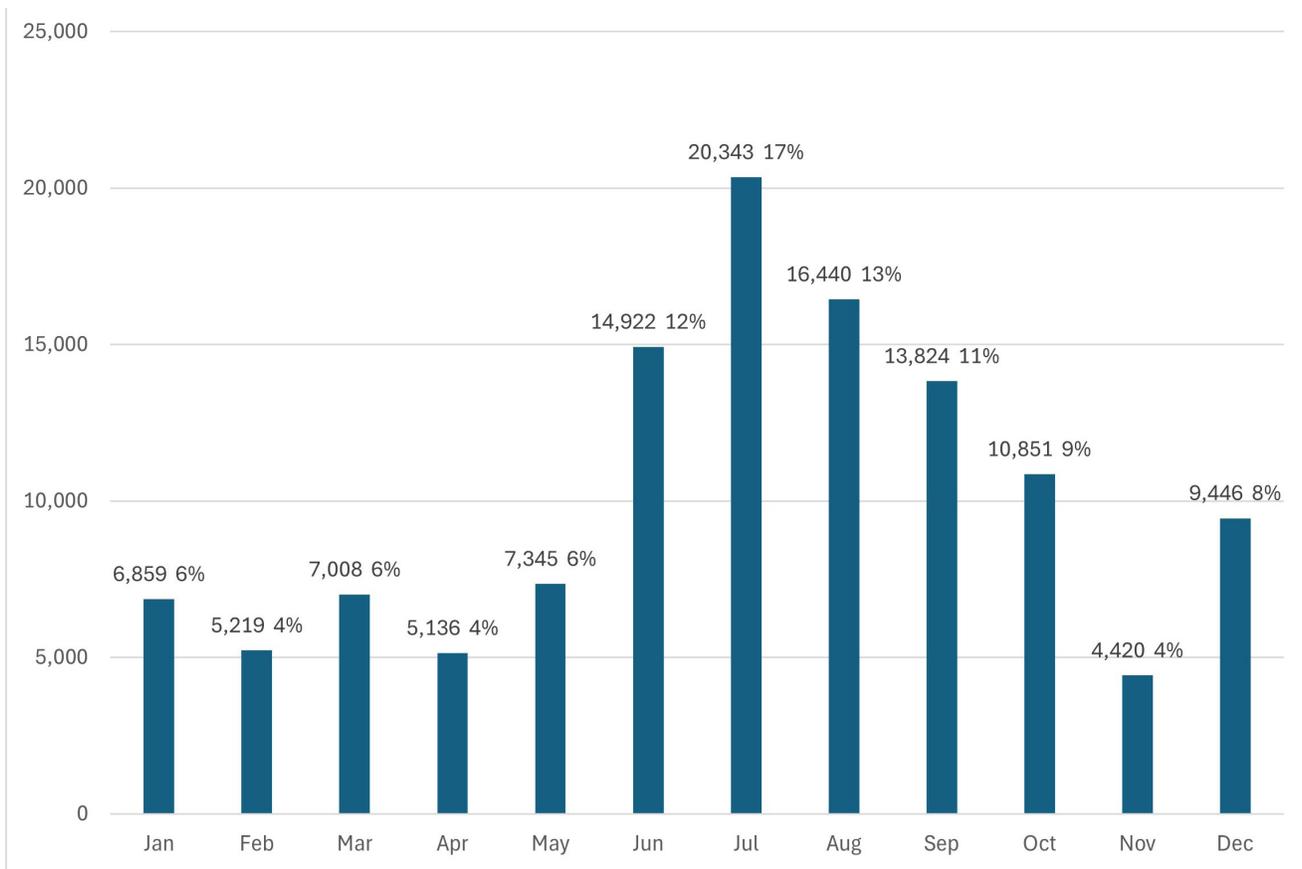


Breckenridge History Archives Site

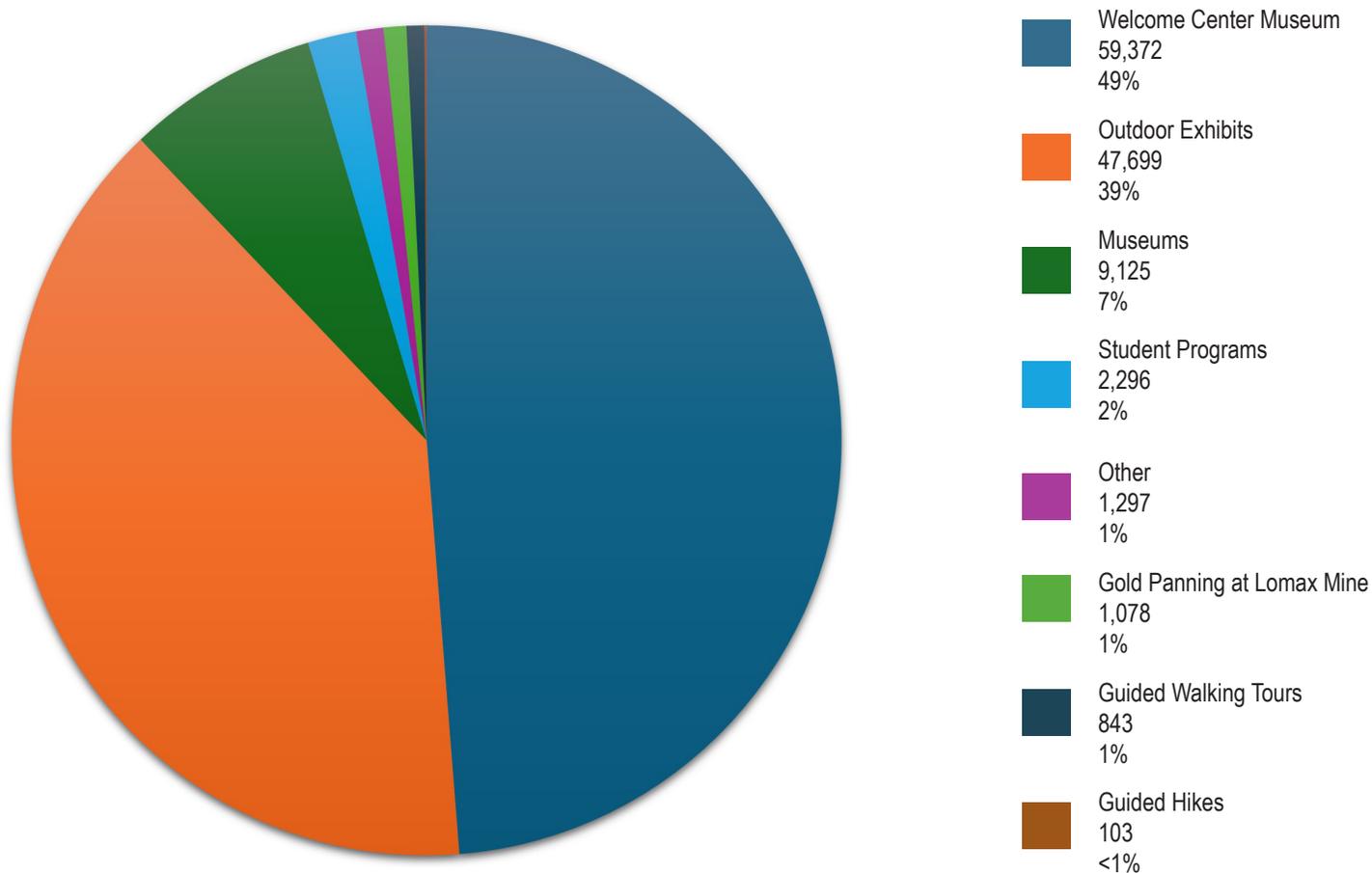
8,606

TOTAL UNIQUE USERS FOR  
BRECKENRIDGE HISTORY  
ARCHIVES WEBSITE

## 2025 VISITORS BY THE NUMBERS



## 2025 TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS: 121,813





## Saloon Tour

**“The Saloon Tour was fantastic. Our guide, June was amazing. Her knowledge, wit, story telling and sense of humor made our tour unforgettable.”**

Our history isn't all about the ladies and gentlemen. On this tour, you will learn about saloon lore, mayhem, murder, rot-gut whiskey and the goings-on of the red light district. Throw one back in the tasting room of Breckenridge's award-winning distillery and clutch your pearls for this look into another side of Breckenridge's history.

