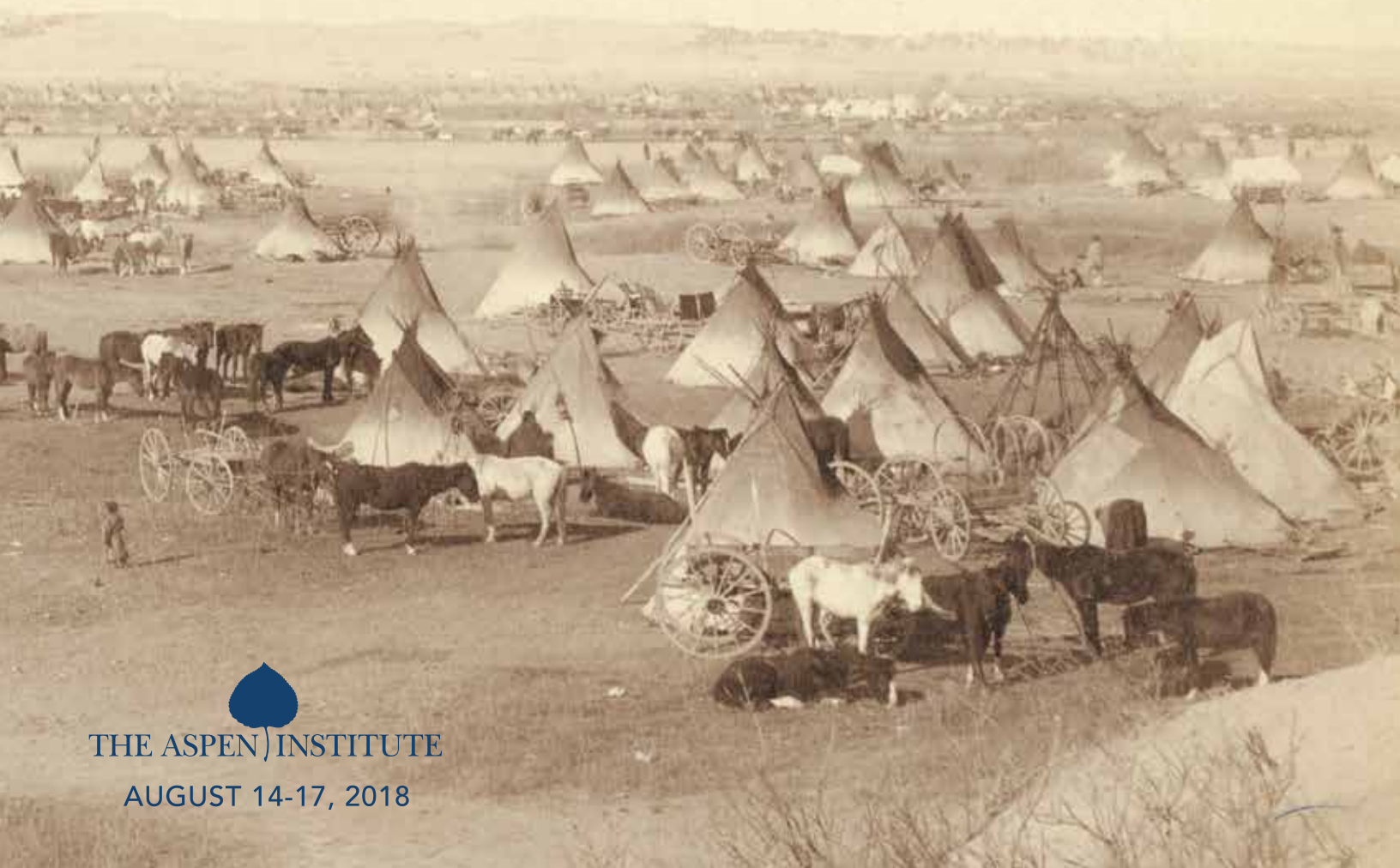


# THE AMERICAN WEST

★ THE HISTORY, THE VALUES, THE STRUGGLE, & THE LEGACY OF THE 19TH CENTURY ★



THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

AUGUST 14-17, 2018







# THE AMERICAN WEST

★ THE HISTORY, THE VALUES, THE STRUGGLE, & THE LEGACY OF THE 19TH CENTURY ★

The American West is made possible through  
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# WELCOME

Dear Friends,

The 19<sup>th</sup> century American West represents both the proudest manifestations of our collective imagination and the struggles at the dark margins of our American character. We identify with all the people involved: noble Indian warrior and soldier, homesteader and cowboy, mining prospector, outlaw and lawman, unsung female hero, laborer, slave, coachman, and others who played a role in the westward expansion. Together, they transformed America from an East coast democratic experiment into a vastly expansive nation.

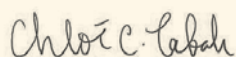
It is an era of epic clashes of cultures and values, technological advancements, and the underside of an unwavering faith in Manifest Destiny. We weigh the unimaginable natural beauty against the need to extract resources. We balance in our hearts the rugged individualism of the Western character against the vital support of community, and we are moved by both the reality and myth of the Old West portrayed in literature, art, photography, and film.

These conflicts played out rapidly over a single century, laying a foundation on which we now stand to grapple with issues of identity, justice, values, and opportunity. We hope this program will both inspire and challenge you to explore what it means to build a community and a country.

With gratitude on behalf of the Aspen Institute team,



Peter Waanders  
Director, Society of Fellows



Chloé Tabah  
Program Manager, Society of Fellows









# AGENDA



5:00-6:00 pm

## All That Was Before: The Pre-Contact American West

Humans had inhabited the American West for 10,000 years before the arrival of Europeans. Civilizations had developed over a score of millennia with new waves of people joining as others faded away. This panel explores the people who met the first wave of European trappers and explorers; the traditions, cultures, and values of the various tribes; and how they related and interacted. Organized in cooperation with Crow Canyon Archeological Center.

*Ned Blackhawk, Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, Mark Varien*

*Moderated by Elliot Gerson*

Kaufman Room, Doerr-Hosier Center

6:00-7:00 pm

## Opening Reception

Barksdale Lobby, Doerr-Hosier Center

7:00-9:30 pm

## Opening Dinner and Discussion

McNulty Room, Doerr-Hosier Center

## Preserving the American West

One of the foremost private collectors of American West artifacts and ephemera, Bill Koch presents the story behind his passion to preserve and share the heritage of the 19<sup>th</sup> century American West.

*Bill Koch*

McNulty Room, Doerr-Hosier Center

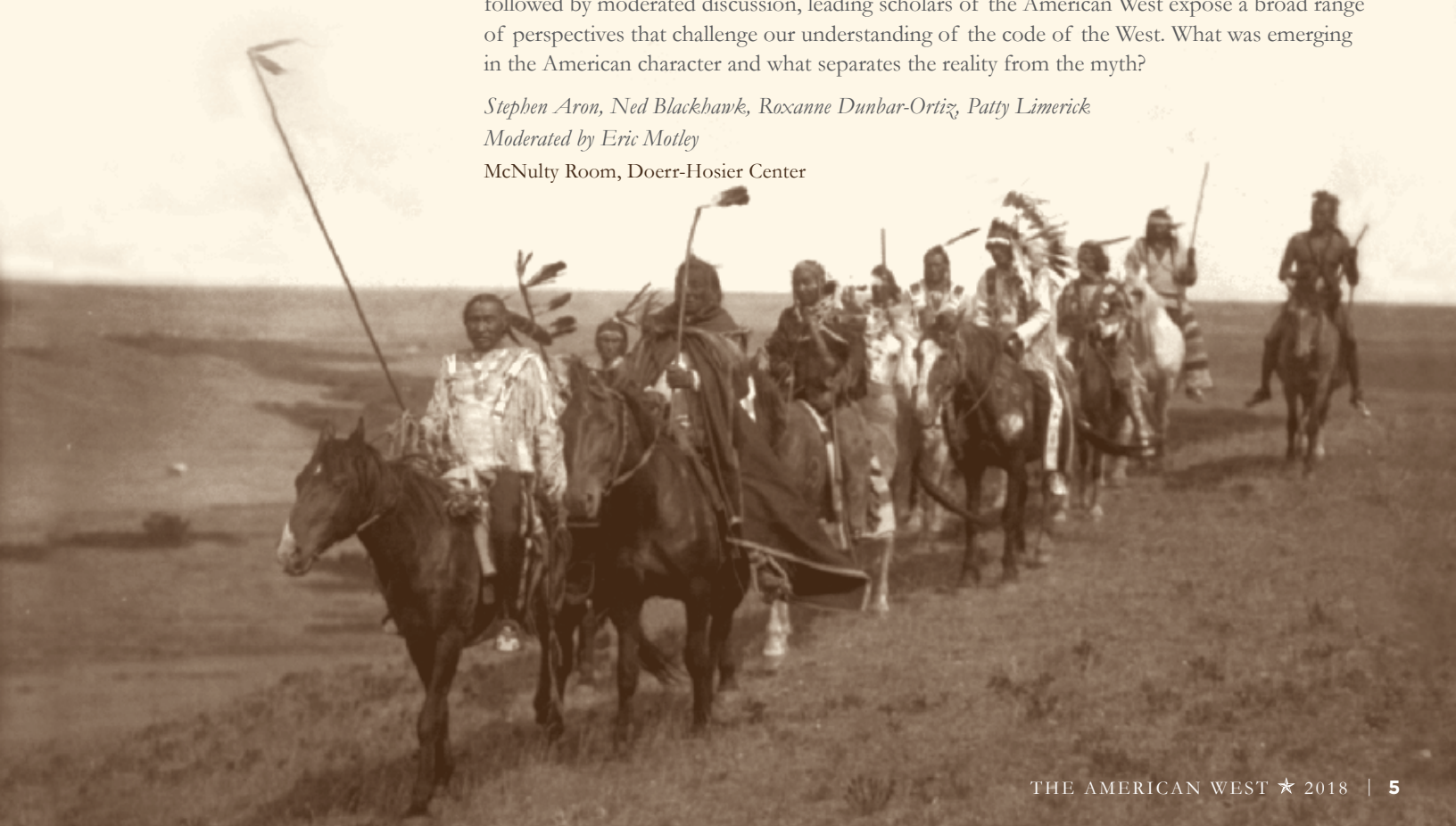
## Values in Conflict: The Code of the West

The story of the American West is a clash of cultures and values. In a series of brief statements followed by moderated discussion, leading scholars of the American West expose a broad range of perspectives that challenge our understanding of the code of the West. What was emerging in the American character and what separates the reality from the myth?

*Stephen Aron, Ned Blackhawk, Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, Patty Limerick*

*Moderated by Eric Motley*

McNulty Room, Doerr-Hosier Center





8:00-8:50 am Roundtable Speaker Breakfasts

McNulty Room, Doerr-Hosier Center

9:00-9:50 am Pressures Build and the Stakes Get Bigger:  
Go West, Young Man!

Large forces were gathering as the Louisiana Purchase and Jefferson's commission for the Lewis and Clark expedition opened the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This session explores the increasing geopolitical pressures driving expansion to the West and the experiences of early fur trappers, military, settlers, and mining prospectors.

*Hampton Sides, Virginia Scharff, Steven Woodworth*

*Moderated by Ned Blackhawk*

McNulty Room, Doerr-Hosier Center

10:00-10:50 am The Story of the Land: Water and Wildlife

Early reports included landscapes full of mythical beasts and primitive people, but the reality of what Europeans found in the West challenged their visions of recreating the farms and communities of the East. The realities of the landscape necessitated new ways of interacting with the physical world.

*Sara Dant, Dan Flores, Molly Gloss*

*Moderated by Elliot Gerson*

McNulty Room, Doerr-Hosier Center

11:10 am-12:00 pm Native American Perspective: The Struggle to Survive

Native peoples are squarely at the center of both the imagination and reality of the 19<sup>th</sup> century American West. This session explores the Indigenous peoples' dynamic and complex story as active resisters of colonial expansion.

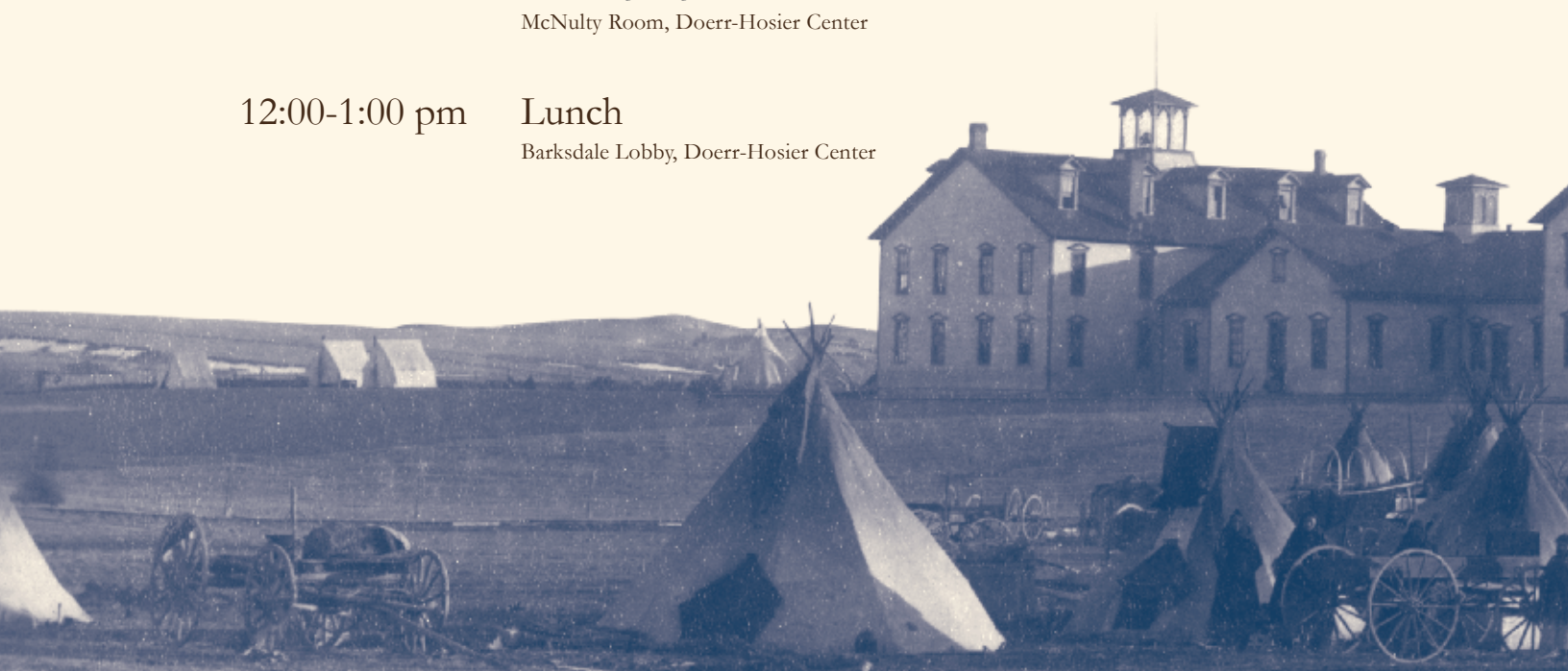
*Ned Blackhawk, Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz*

*Moderated by Terry Anderson*

McNulty Room, Doerr-Hosier Center

12:00-1:00 pm Lunch

Barksdale Lobby, Doerr-Hosier Center





1:00-1:50 pm

## From Territories to States: The Civil War and the End of the Frontier

The Civil War was both influenced by the American West and profoundly impacted its development. The army and policies of the Reconstruction era drove the taming of the West, the solidification of law and order, and the establishment of territories and states.

*Stephen Aron, Virginia Scharff, Steven Woodworth*

*Moderated by Martha Sandweiss*

McNulty Room, Doerr-Hosier Center

## BREAKOUTS AND ACTIVITIES

2:00-4:00 pm

### Screening of *The Searchers* (1956)

In collaboration with the American Film Institute

Paepcke Auditorium, Paepcke Memorial Building

2:00-3:00 pm

### The American West in Pictures

*Led by Martha Sandweiss*

Kaufman Room, Doerr-Hosier Center

2:00-3:00 pm

### Native American Women: A Different Life

*Led by Virginia Scharff*

Catto Room, Doerr-Hosier Center

2:00-3:00 pm

### Writing on the American West

*Led by Molly Gloss*

Bass Terrace, Doerr-Hosier Center

5:00-6:30 pm

## PUBLIC LECTURE

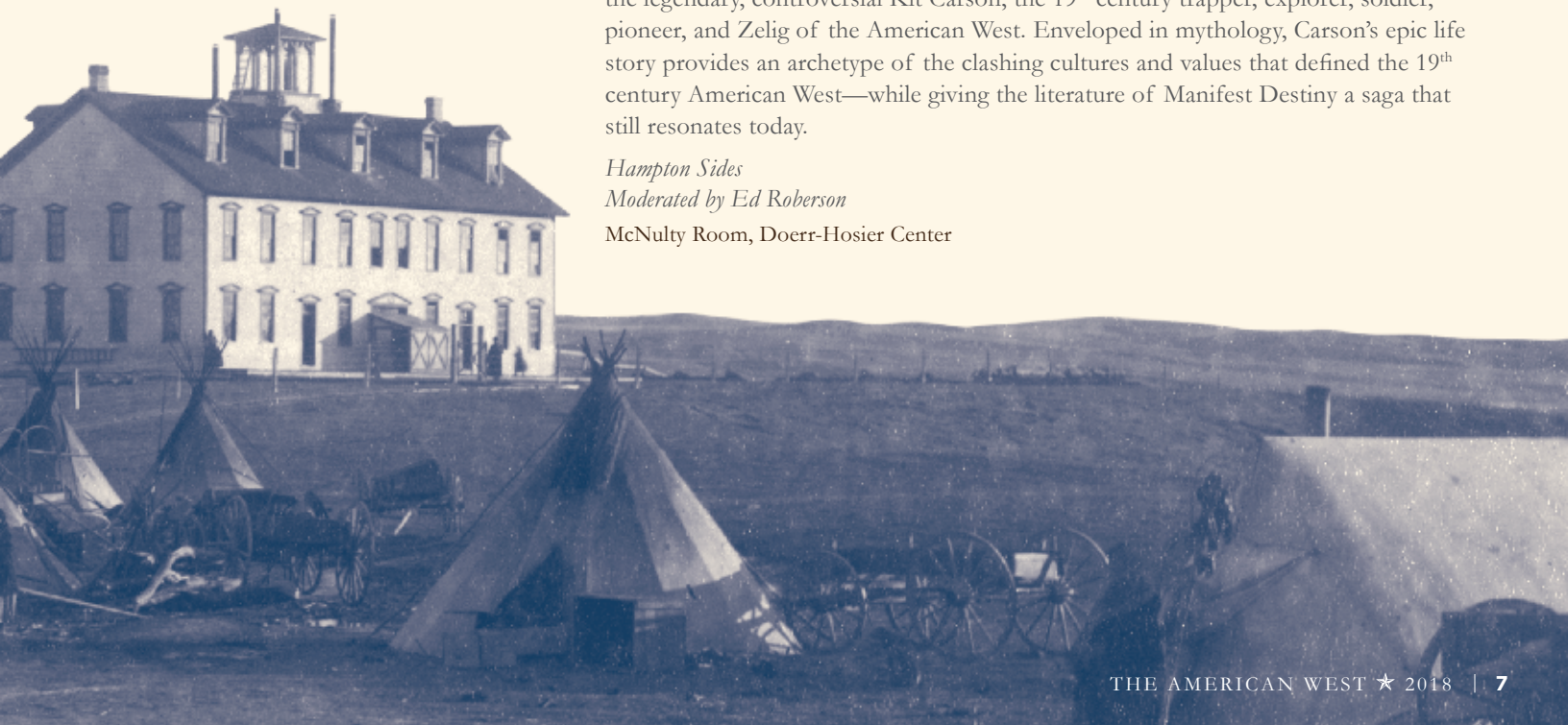
### Kit Carson and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century American West: A Legendary Journey of Exploration

Narrative historian Hampton Sides shares his insights into the life and times of the legendary, controversial Kit Carson, the 19<sup>th</sup> century trapper, explorer, soldier, pioneer, and Zelig of the American West. Enveloped in mythology, Carson's epic life story provides an archetype of the clashing cultures and values that defined the 19<sup>th</sup> century American West—while giving the literature of Manifest Destiny a saga that still resonates today.

*Hampton Sides*

*Moderated by Ed Roberson*

McNulty Room, Doerr-Hosier Center





Participants and speakers travel for a day-visit to the private collection and Old West Town of Bill Koch to explore one of the largest private collections of Old West artifacts and ephemera. The collection is uniquely housed throughout a private, fifty-building Old West Town located in Somerset, Colorado, about 2.5 hours from Aspen. Transportation is arranged for participants and speakers.

Guests are required to sign a release of liability and non-disclosure agreement. No photography or recording is permitted of the Town or collection. Note: There is no cellular coverage at the property. For necessary communications, a landline or WiFi network is made available. Participants and speakers are asked to disconnect and enjoy the unique experience.

## 6:00-6:30 am Bus Shuttles to Bill Koch's Old West Town and Ranch

All shuttles will leave at 6:30 am promptly.

Departure: Walter Isaacson Center, Aspen Meadows campus

Arrival: Bill Koch's Old West Town and Ranch

## 7:00-8:30 am Helicopter Shuttle to Bill Koch's Old West Town and Ranch

Reservation required for additional fee.

## 7:30-9:00 am Breakfast

Light breakfast served as participants arrive.

Bill Koch's Old West Town and Ranch

## 9:00-10:00 am The Emergence of City Life and the Economy

In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, most westerners lived in towns and cities, worked for wages, and were active members of communities of craftsman, laborers, and organizations. And yet, the economy of the West was still driven by East coast investors, big business, and local economics.

*Terry Anderson*

*Moderated by Stephen Aron*

Bill Koch's Old West Town and Ranch



10:00 am-12:00 pm

### Guided Old West Town Walking Tours

Guests join guided tours of the Town — including old mining shacks, banks, stores, hotels, and saloons — as well as a tour of the Native American collection. The tours serve as an introduction so that guests may enjoy independent exploration throughout the afternoon.

Bill Koch's Old West Town and Ranch

12:00-12:30 pm

### Boxed Lunch

Bill Koch's Old West Town and Ranch

12:30-1:30 pm

### Law and Order: Outlaws and Gun Fights

Popular images of the 19<sup>th</sup> century West from books and movies were and are built around the epic battles of lawmen and outlaws to depict the taming of the West. This session explores a selection of western outlaws and the reality of how violent life was in the West.

*Drew Gomber, Kurt House, Marcus Huff, Michael Wallis, Roy Young*

*Moderated by Roger McGrath*

Bill Koch's Old West Town and Ranch

1:30-4:00 pm

### Explorations of Old West Town

Guests are invited to independently explore the buildings and collections.

Expert guides and historians will be stationed in buildings to discuss the collection and its historical context.

Bill Koch's Old West Town and Ranch

4:00-6:00 pm

### Old West Town Social

Enjoy a chuck wagon cookout, musical entertainment, and libations in one of the many town saloons.

Bill Koch's Old West Town and Ranch

6:00-10:00 pm

### Bus Shuttles Back to Aspen

Shuttles will leave at three different times throughout the evening.

Departure: Bill Koch Old West Town and Ranch

Arrival: Walter Isaacson Center, Aspen Meadows campus

6:00-7:30 pm

### Helicopter Shuttle Back to Aspen

Reservation required for additional fee.





## 8:00-8:50 am Roundtable Speaker Breakfasts

McNulty Room, Doerr-Hosier Center

## 9:00-9:50 am The End of the Frontier: The Beginning of Conservation

In 1890, the Census Bureau declared the “End of the Frontier,” officially recognizing that there was no longer discernable large tracts of land yet unbroken by new settlement. With the rapid economic growth and industrialization of the West, the new Progressive era characterized by social activism, political reform, and the emergence of the conservation movement had arrived.

*Sarah Dant, Dan Flores, Martha Sandweiss*

*Moderated by Stephen Aron*

McNulty Room, Doerr-Hosier Center

## 10:10-11:00 am Native Americans and the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Calvin Coolidge signed the Indian Citizenship Act in 1924, making all Native Americans born in the United States full citizens, while still recognizing the rights to tribal land and property. However, the struggle to reconcile the mistreatment, create opportunity, and preserve culture continue to this day.

*Terry Anderson, Sheldon Spotted Elk, Mark Varien*

*Moderated by Martha Sandweiss*

McNulty Room, Doerr-Hosier Center

## 11:10 am-12:30 pm The West Today: Lessons for the Future

The conflicts that arose during the exploration and development of the new frontier in the 19<sup>th</sup> century continue to influence both our national identity and the current realities of life in the American West. What have we learned and how can we apply it to our present and future?

*Steven Aron, Bruce Cain*

*Moderated by Virginia Scharff*

McNulty Room, Doerr-Hosier Center

## 12:30-2:00 pm Closing Barbeque and Celebration

Albright Pavilion, Aspen Meadows campus







Left page: The Oregon Trail, Kit Carson, Wells Fargo Wagon, California Gold Rush, American Buffalo, Ute Chief Ouray and Chepita. Right Page: Manifest Destiny, Buffafo Bill Carlson, Lewis and Clark Expedition





LEWIS AND CLARK  
1804

EXPEDITION  
1954



UNITED STATES POSTAGE 30

SCALES

Statute Miles, 241=1 inch.

0 100 200 300 400 500

Kilometres, 386=1 inch.



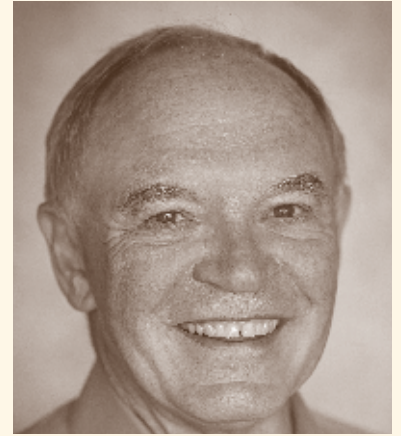
# PRESENTERS





## TERRY ANDERSON

Terry L. Anderson is the John & Jean DeNault Senior Fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution, past president of Property and Environment Research Center (PERC), a research institute in Bozeman, Montana, and professor emeritus at Montana State University, where he taught from 1972 to 1997 and won several teaching awards. Anderson is author or editor of 39 books, including the award winning *The Not so Wild, Wild West: Property Rights on the Frontier* (with Peter J. Hill) and *Unlocking the Wealth of Indian Nations*. Anderson's articles have appeared in more than 50 professional journals, and he is a frequent contributor to *Wall Street Journal* and other national publications. Anderson received his B.S. degree from the University of Montana in 1968 and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in economics from the University of Washington in 1972. He resides in Montana with his wife and is an avid outdoorsman. He enjoys fishing, hunting, horseback riding, and generally enjoying nature.



## STEPHEN ARON

Stephen Aron is a professor of history at the University of California, Los Angeles and a past president of the Western History Association. His books include *How the West Was Lost: The Transformation of Kentucky from Daniel Boone to Henry Clay* (1996); *American Confluence: The Missouri Frontier from Borderland to Border State* (2006); and *The American West: A Very Short Introduction* (2015). He is currently writing a book with the working title *Can We All Get Along: An Alternative History of the American West*. From 2002-2014, Aron split his appointment between UCLA and the Autry Museum of the American West, serving as the executive director of the Autry Institute for the Study of the American West. In that position, as well as a consultant for other museums and for numerous television programs, documentaries, and films, he has sought to bridge the divide between academic and public history.



## NED BLACKHAWK

Ned Blackhawk (Western Shoshone) is a professor of history and American studies at Yale and was on the faculty from 1999 to 2009 at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. A graduate of McGill University, he holds graduate degrees in History from UCLA and the University of Washington and is the author of *Violence Over the Land: Indians and Empires in the Early American West* (Harvard, 2006), a study of the American Great Basin that garnered the Frederick Jackson Turner Prize from the Organization of American Historians, among others. In 2018, he co-edited *Indigenous Visions: Rediscovering the World of Franz Boas* published as well as a catalog contribution to the October 2018 Metropolitan Museum of Art Show, *The Art of Native America*.



## BRUCE CAIN

Bruce Cain is an expert in U.S. politics, and particularly the politics of California and the American West. A pioneer in computer-assisted redistricting, he is a prominent scholar of elections, political regulation, and the relationships between lobbyists and elected officials. Prior to joining Stanford, Cain was director of the Institute of Governmental Studies at UC Berkeley from 1990-2007 and executive director of the UC Washington Center from 2005-2012. He was elected the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2000, and has won awards for his research (Richard F. Fenno Prize, 1988), teaching (Caltech 1988 and UC Berkeley 2003), and public service (Zale Award for Outstanding Achievement in Policy Research and Public Service, 2000). He is currently working on state regulatory processes and stakeholder involvement in the areas of water, energy, and the environment.





## PRESENTERS



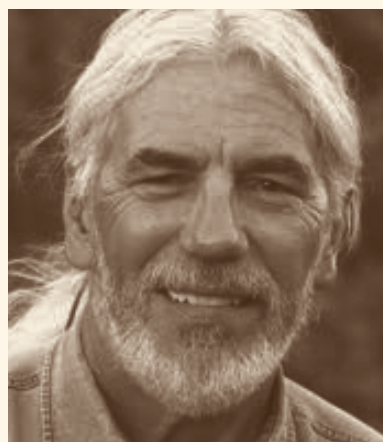
### SARA DANT

Sara Dant is professor and chair of history at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, whose work focuses on environmental politics in the United States with a particular emphasis on the creation and development of consensus and bi-partisanism. Her newest book is *Losing Eden: An Environmental History of the American West* (2017), a synthetic “deep history” of the region that examines the interaction between people and nature over time. Dant is the author of several prize-winning articles on western environmental politics and co-author of the two-volume *Encyclopedia of American National Parks* (2004). An avid outdoor enthusiast and native westerner, Dant divides her time between northern Utah and the Galisteo River Valley outside Santa Fe, New Mexico.



### ROXANNE DUNBAR-ORTIZ

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz grew up in rural Oklahoma, a child of tenant farmers. As a veteran of the 1960s revolution, she has been involved in anti-racist, anti-colonial, anti-imperialist movements; union organizing; and was one of the founders of the Women’s Liberation Movement in the late 1960s. Since 1973, she has focused on Native American and Ethnic Studies and worked with Indigenous communities for sovereignty and land rights and helped build the international Indigenous movement. A historian, writer, and professor emeritus in Native American studies at California State University, she is author of numerous Indigenous related books and articles, including *Roots of Resistance: A History of Land Tenure in New Mexico*; *An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States*, and most recently, *Loaded: A Disarming History of the Second Amendment*. She received the 2018 Lannan Foundation Cultural Freedom Prize.



### DAN FLORES

Dan Flores is A.B. Hammond Professor Emeritus of the History of the American West at the University of Montana. The author of ten books, he has also written for *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Chicago Tribune*, as well as numerous national magazines. Flores is the author, most recently, of *American Serengeti: The Last Big Animals of the Great Plains*, which received the 2017 Stubbendieck Distinguished Book Prize. Previously, he wrote the *New York Times* best-selling book *Coyote America: A Natural and Supernatural History*, which won the 2017 Sigurd Olson Nature Writing Award and was a finalist for PEN America’s 2017 E.O. Wilson Prize in Literary Science Writing. Flores lives in the Galisteo Valley outside of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

## ELLIOT GERSON

Elliot Gerson is an executive vice president at the Aspen Institute, responsible for its Policy Programs, Public Programs, and relations with international partners. The Institute's more than 30 Policy Programs provide neutral venues to do nonpartisan analysis, foster candid dialogue among leaders, advocate new policy, and promote best practices. Public Programs, including the Aspen Ideas Festival, Aspen Words, the Aspen Institute Arts Program, and the Socrates Seminars, open its doors to broader audiences. Gerson also administers the U.S. Rhodes Scholarships. He previously practiced law, was a U.S. Supreme Court clerk, held executive positions in government and on a presidential campaign, was president of health care and education start-ups, and led two national insurance and health care companies. He has served on many nonprofit boards, especially in the arts.



## MOLLY GLOSS

Molly Gloss is a novelist and short-story writer whose work often concerns the landscape, literature, mythology, and life of the American West. She is the author of *The Jump-Off Creek*, *Wild Life*, *The Hearts of Horses*, and *Falling From Horses*. Her novels have received, among other honors, a PEN West Fiction Prize, an Oregon Book Award, Pacific Northwest Booksellers Awards, the James Tiptree, Jr. Award, and a Whiting Writers Award. A fourth-generation Oregonian, she lives in Portland.



## DREW GOMBER

Drew Gomber was born in New York City and raised in New Jersey. After his honorable discharge from the military in 1972, he moved to Florida, where he began to pursue his career in newspapers. In his spare time, he invariably read all he could find on western history. With the exception of a three-year stint in Boston, he worked at the *St. Petersburg Times* in Florida, until 1994, when he decided to move to Lincoln, New Mexico. He has remained in Lincoln ever since, studying violence on the western frontier, leading tours, and writing for periodicals. He is currently waiting for his fourth book about the Lincoln County War to be published. He lives with his wife Elise, along with three dogs (and counting) in Lincoln.





## PRESENTERS



### KURT HOUSE

Kurt House, a graduate of both Texas Christian University and Southern Methodist University and a doctoral candidate in anthropology, is a longtime collector of firearms and western memorabilia with a particular interest in John Wesley Hardin. He has published six books and numerous articles on various subjects ranging from archaeology to antique arms and also appraises antique arms and western memorabilia. He is a member of many organizations, and has served in leadership and board positions, including the Colt Collectors Association; the National Rifle Association; the Texas Gun Collectors Association; the National Bit, Spur and Saddle Collector's Association; the Wild West History Association; the Former Texas Ranger Foundation; and the American Fan Collector Association, for which he is the founder.



### MARCUS HUFF

Marcus Huff is the former editor of *True West* magazine and has edited and written over 1,000 articles on the American West and seven books, including the completed works of Philip K. Rasch. A frequent contributor and consultant, Huff has appeared on the History Channel, PBS, NPR, FOX Television and Discovery. He has also served as a series editor for the National Association of Lawman and Outlaw History and the Western History Association.



### WILLIAM "BILL" KOCH

William "Bill" Koch is the founder and chief executive officer of Oxbow Carbon LLC which has offices across the globe and is the world's largest marketing company of fuel grade and calcined petroleum coke, a key ingredient in the manufacturing of aluminum, and a key supplier of sulphur, sulphuric acid, and fertilizers. A native of Wichita, Kansas, Koch graduated from Culver Military Academy and earned his BA, MA and Ph.D. degrees in chemical engineering from MIT. He was awarded four honorary doctoral degrees. In addition to his business success as an entrepreneur, Koch is recognized as a world-class sailor, art collector, and philanthropist. He and his team won the 1992 America's Cup, the most coveted prize in professional sailing, and he also won four sailing world championships. He founded and was the chairman of the Kansas Crime Commission, which he was devoted to studying the root causes of crime; he has founded an innovative private high school; and he has loaned his world class art collection to museums around the globe.

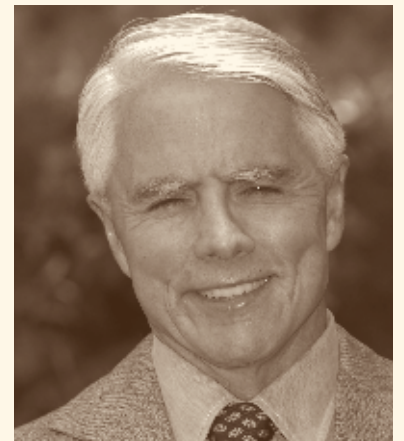
## PATTY LIMERICK

Patty Limerick is the faculty director and chair of the board of the Center of the American West at the University of Colorado Boulder, where she is also a professor of environmental studies and history. In addition, Limerick was appointed to the National Endowment for the Humanities advisory board The National Council on the Humanities, in 2015. She is the author of *Desert Passages*, *The Legacy of Conquest*, *Something in the Soil*, and *A Ditch in Time*. A recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship and the Hazel Barnes Prize — the University of Colorado’s highest award for teaching and research — she has served as president of the American Studies Association, the Western History Association, the Society of American Historians, and the Organization of American Historians, as well as the vice president for teaching of the American Historical Association. She received her B.A. from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and her Ph.D. from Yale University.



## ROGER McGRATH

Roger McGrath, Ph.D., has appeared in more than 100 documentaries, including dozens of episodes of such long-running series as “The Real West,” “Biography,” “Tales of the Gun,” “Wild West Tech,” and “Outlaws & Cowboys.” McGrath has a passion for history, especially the Old West and military history. For many years, he taught courses in both, including 15 years at UCLA where the Panhellenic Council voted him “Outstanding Professor,” demonstrating that the brothers and sisters of the fraternities and sororities must have still been feeling the effects of weekend parties. McGrath is the author of *Gunfighters, Highwaymen, and Vigilantes* and has co-authored several books. He is also the author of more than 150 articles, columns, and book reviews. McGrath is also a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and at one time a jet-rated pilot. In his spare time, he surfs and rides motorcycles.



## ERIC MOTLEY

Eric L. Motley, Ph.D., is an executive vice president and corporate secretary at the Aspen Institute, responsible for Institutional Advancement and governance. He previously served as Vice President and Executive Director of National Programs at the Aspen Institute and the Director of the U.S. Department of State’s Office of International Visitors. In 2003, Motley was appointed as Special Assistant to President George W. Bush for Presidential Personnel. He serves on the Board of Directors for numerous arts, literature, and other cultural institutions, and is a Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary International Foundation and Henry Crown Fellow of the Aspen Institute. In February 2017, he published a memoir *Madison Park, A Place of Hope*. Motley earned his bachelor’s degree in political science and philosophy from Samford University. At the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, he earned a Master of Letters in International Relations and a Ph.D. as the John Steven Watson Scholar.





## PRESENTERS



### ED ROBERSION

Ed Roberson serves as conservation director at Palmer Land Trust, an innovative and highly effective land conservation organization that protects Southern Colorado's working agricultural lands, recreational open space, and stunning scenic vistas. Prior to Palmer, he spent his career in the business world, having worked extensively in ranch brokerage, commercial real estate, and finance. Roberson's formal education also centered around business—he holds both a B.A. in economics and an MBA with a concentration in finance from Wake Forest University. As a passion project, Roberson hosts the *Mountain & Prairie* podcast, which features long-form interviews with innovators of the American West. Away from the office, he is keenly focused on mountain sports, having run numerous 50- and 100-mile ultramarathons through the western backcountry and climbed Denali, Aconcagua, and many of Colorado's 14,000-foot mountains. Roberson calls Colorado Springs home, where he lives with his wife and two young daughters.



### MARTHA SANDWIESS

Martha A. Sandweiss is an historian of the United States with particular interests in the history of the American West, visual culture, and public history. She began her career as a photography curator at the Amon Carter Museum in Ft. Worth, Texas, then taught at Amherst College for 20 years before joining the Princeton University faculty in 2009. Sandweiss is the author of *Passing Strange: A Gilded Age Tale of Love and Deception across the Color Line* (2009), and *Print the Legend: Photography and the American West* (2002). Her other works include *Laura Gilpin: An Enduring Grace* (1986) and the co-edited volume *The Oxford History of the American West*. She is also the founder and director of The Princeton & Slavery Project, an ambitious public history project that explores the historical connections between Princeton and the institution of slavery.



### VIRGINIA SCHARFF

Virginia Scharff is distinguished Professor of History Emerita and director of the Center for the Southwest at the University of New Mexico. Her books include *Taking the Wheel: Women and the Coming of the Motor Age* (1991); *Home Lands: How Women Made the West* (coauthored with Carolyn Brucken, 2010); *Seeing Nature Through Gender* (2003), and *Empire and Liberty: The Civil War and the West* (2015). Scharff's *The Women Jefferson Loved* (2010) was a *New York Times* "Editor's Choice." Scharff has served as Women of the West Chair and senior scholar at the Autry Museum. She is a fellow of the Society of American Historians, was president of the Western History Association (2008), and currently serves on the executive board of the Organization of American Historians. Scharff is author of four mystery suspense novels, written under the name of Virginia Swift, published by HarperCollins. She is working on a historical novel.

## HAMPTON SIDES

Hampton Sides is the author of *In the Kingdom of Ice*, *Ghost Soldiers*, *Blood and Thunder*, *Hellbound On His Trail*, and other bestselling works of narrative history. Sides is an editor-at-large for *Outside* magazine and contributes to such periodicals as *National Geographic*, *Smithsonian*, and *The Atlantic*. A recent fellow of the Santa Fe Institute, he teaches literary journalism at Colorado College. Sides's *Blood and Thunder* (2006) was named one of the 10 Best Books of 2006 by *Time* magazine, and was selected as the year's best history title by the Western Writers of America. *Blood and Thunder* was the subject of a major documentary on the PBS program "The American Experience." A native of Memphis with a B.A. in history from Yale, he lives in Santa Fe with his wife Anne. His newest work, *On Desperate Ground*, will be published by Doubleday this October.



## SHELDON SPOTTED ELK

Sheldon Spotted Elk (Northern Cheyenne) works as a director at Casey Family Programs, Indian Child Welfare Programs, a direct operating foundation based out of Denver. Sheldon has extensive expertise in tribal law, child welfare, and juvenile issues. He collaborates with tribes and states to increase capacity in child welfare systems, in addition to working closely with national consortia that serve tribal courts. Spotted Elk is a former children's lawyer and served as the chief of staff for the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray. He holds a Juris Doctorate from University of New Mexico School of Law, where he was professional articles editor on the *Tribal Law Journal* and was awarded the *CALI* Excellence for the Future Award. Spotted Elk published an article on tribal constitutional reform in 2012. He holds a B.A. in social work from University of Utah. He is a father of two sons.



## MARK VARIEN

Mark Varien serves as the executive vice president of the Research Institute at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Cortez, Colorado. In this position, he furthers Crow Canyon's three-part mission: to increase knowledge of the human experience through archaeological research, to conduct that research in the context of public education programs, and to partner with American Indians on those research and education programs and other projects of mutual interest. Formed as a new initiative in 2014, the Research Institute is an institution without walls—a network of archaeologists, other social scientists, native scholars, and educators—that conducts archaeological research in the public interest for the betterment of society. Varien received a Ph.D. in anthropology from Arizona State University (1997); the Society for American Archaeology selected his dissertation for their 1998 Best Dissertation Award. He has published five books, numerous articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals, and many pieces for the interested public.







## MICHAEL WALLIS

It has been said, “Reading a Michael Wallis book is like dancing to a romantic ballad. He offers his hand and gently guides you across the floor, swaying to the song of the American West.” Wallis has published nineteen books, including the award winning *Route 66: The Mother Road*, the book credited with sparking the resurgence of interest in the highway. Wallis’s latest book is the critically acclaimed best-seller *The Best Land Under Heaven: The Donner Party in the Age of Manifest Destiny*, published in June 2017. His work has appeared in hundreds of publications, including *Time*, *Life*, *People*, *Smithsonian*, *The New Yorker*, and *The New York Times*. Wallis has been nominated three times for the Pulitzer Prize and was also a nominee for the National Book Award. In 2016, he received an Emmy Award for his work in the documentary film, *Boomtown*.



## STEVEN WOODWORTH

Steven E. Woodworth received his B.A. in 1982 from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and his Ph.D. in 1987 from Rice University in Houston, Texas. After teaching at small colleges in Oklahoma and Georgia, he came to Texas Christian University in 1997 and is now a professor of history there. Over the years, he has authored, co-authored, or edited numerous books, including *Manifest Destinies: America’s Westward Expansion and the Road to Civil War* (2010), *Nothing but Victory: The Army of the Tennessee, 1861-1865* (2006), *While God Is Marching On: The Religious World of Civil War Soldiers* (2001), and *Jefferson Davis and His Generals: The Failure of Confederate Command in the West* (1990).



## ROY YOUNG

Roy B. Young, a native Oklahoman, is first vice president of the Wild West History Association (WWHA) and serves as publications editor of the quarterly journal and Saddlebag newsletter. His fields of specialty are Wyatt Earp and Tombstone, Billy the Kid, Texas Rangers, frontier scouts, and general outlaw-lawman history. He is the author of numerous books, pamphlets, and articles on all aspects of Wild West history. He is a former president of the Western Outlaw-Lawman History Association and the Oklahombres, an organization dedicated to the study of lawmen and outlaws in Oklahoma and Indian territories. He is the recipient of the WWHA “Lifetime Contributions to Wild West History” award.







# PARTNERS



## AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE

The American Film Institute (AFI) is America's promise to preserve the heritage of the motion picture, to honor the artists and their work, and to educate the next generation of storytellers. As a nonprofit educational arts organization, AFI provides leadership in film and television and is dedicated to initiatives that engage the past, the present, and the future of the moving image arts.

Tom West, Chief Advancement Officer; 323.856.7680  
afi.com

## CROW CANYON ARCHAEOLOGICAL CENTER

The mission of the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center is to empower present and future generations by making the human past accessible and relevant through archaeological research, experiential education, and American Indian knowledge.

Liz Perry, CEO & President; 907.947.9957  
crowcanyon.org

## VALLEY FINE ART

Valley Fine Art has long been a cornerstone of the western art scene. The gallery is located on Mill Street in the historic Wheeler Opera House in downtown Aspen, Colorado. An unpretentious and welcoming atmosphere at the gallery is its hallmark. Valley Fine Art is highly regarded for carrying noteworthy and interesting western artwork and artists. The well-rounded collection enables clients to select from the gallery's sculpture, painting, photography, old pawn jewelry, and custom-made furniture. The incomparable collection of masterworks by Edward Curtis sets Valley Fine Art apart from all other galleries in the west. Mia Valley has earned recognition as one of the foremost experts in the ethnographic work by Edward Curtis, and she and her staff are frequently called upon to act as authorities on Edward Curtis's work.

Mia Valley, Owner; 970.920.9193  
valleyfineart.com

## WILD WEST HISTORY ASSOCIATION

The Wild West History Association is dedicated to providing publications and forums for the enlightenment and enjoyment of its members, facilitating and encouraging research, study, writing, presentation, and preservation of the history and lore of the people, events, and places that made the American West "wild" in the last half of the nineteenth century...the lawmen, outlaws, gunfighters, rustlers, vigilantes, feuds, shady ladies, saloons, cowtowns, and mining camps...along with recognizing and honoring those individuals and institutions that make significant contributions to the knowledge and preservation of Wild West history and lore.

Jim Dunham, President; 770.607.6362  
wildwesthistory.org



## BILL KOCH'S OLD WEST TOWN AND RANCH

Few have heard of Bill Koch's Old West Town and Ranch, and even fewer have had the opportunity to witness this visionary work in progress.

Nestled in the Ragged Mountains of Colorado, the town is the outcome of Bill Koch's mission to preserve the objects, stories, and values of the Old West. A lifelong collector with a vision, he built the private town to ensure the proper conservation of the collection and to recreate an accurate representation of what life was like during this era.

Bill Koch believes that the origin of the American spirit can be found during these lawless years; when pioneers took their family and humble belongings across unfriendly territories, looking for the land of opportunities. This collection and the town that houses it is the inheritance he wishes to bequeath to future generations—ensuring that the stories of the Old West and their inherent lessons and values will never be forgotten.

Be among the very few who can witness this private collection.

Mark Curley, Vice President, Bear Ranch; [mark.curley@renegadellc.com](mailto:mark.curley@renegadellc.com)

Natasha Khandekar, Director, Koch Collection; [natasha.khandekar@renegadellc.com](mailto:natasha.khandekar@renegadellc.com)











The Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, DC. Its mission is to foster leadership based on enduring values and to provide a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues. The Institute has campuses in Aspen, Colorado, and on the Wye River on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It also maintains offices in New York City and has an international network of partners.

The Aspen Institute aims to spark intellectual inquiry and exchange, to connect new concepts to timeless values, to create a diverse worldwide community of leaders committed to the greater good, and to provide a nonpartisan forum for reaching solutions on vital public policy issues.

The Society of Fellows is a national community of the Institute's closest friends whose support plays an instrumental role in advancing the mission of the Aspen Institute. Fellows enjoy unparalleled access to Institute programs, most notably exclusive discussion receptions, luncheons, and multi-day symposia, all featuring policy and issue experts. Fellows are the first to know of offerings, receiving special invitations to programs in Aspen; New York; Washington, DC; San Francisco, and elsewhere across the country.

Fellows actively participate in the Aspen Institute's programs, act as advocates and ambassadors, and help sustain the Institute's mission. Founded in 1964, the Society of Fellows program provides important unrestricted support that advances all facets of the Institute's work. Fellows understand the importance of fostering leadership based on values, encouraging individuals to reflect on the ideals and ideas that define a good society, and promoting civil dialogue on the important issues of the day. Those who wish to engage deeper in the Institute's work are encouraged to join.

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