2016 Media Information
A Colorado Non-Profit Organization

Keeping the History and Artistic Treasures of Our American Past Alive in Our Community.

www.TesoroCulturalCenter.com
Tesoro Cultural Center

Photography
High resolution images available.
Contact B Public Relations at (303) 658-0605 or hello@wearebpr.com
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_Tesoro CULTURAL CENTER_
TESORO CULTURAL CENTER – QUICK FACTS

**General Overview**
Tesoro Cultural Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to protecting the artistic and cultural treasures of the American past, and making these treasures available to the community in the name of education and preservation. The structure in which the organization resides is an exact adobe replica of Old Bent’s Fort, a fur-trading post operable in the 1830s along the famous Santa Fe Trail. Many cultures, including American and European trappers, traders, settlers, American Indians, Mexican traders and others conducted business, generating thousands of dollars at Old Bent’s Fort. Respect for each culture and interracial marriages formed alliances that provided economic opportunities for all at Old Bent’s Fort, the “Castle on the Plains.” With its attention to historical detail, the structure that Tesoro Cultural Center calls home is now on the National Register of Historic Places, providing a true “living history” experience for its annual events. Tesoro means “treasure” in Spanish, and the nonprofit hosts community events and educational outreach programs designed to enrich and celebrate shared Southwestern cultural heritage.

**History & Legacy**
The Tesoro Cultural Center was created in December of 1999, and received its first Letter of Determination in August 2001. The organization met the 60-month support test in May 2010, and is now designated a full, public 501(c)(3) by the IRS. Tesoro is a membership-based cultural institution, with government, corporate and individual donors.

**Annual Events**
Each year, Tesoro Cultural Center hosts numerous cultural community events to both educate and create shared experiences similar to those traditional to Old Bent’s Fort.

**Historic Lecture Series: October – May**
Each year, Tesoro Cultural Center invites scholars and experts to partake in its Historic Lecture Series. There are three ways to experience each lecture: A historic evening lecture and dinner at The Fort Restaurant, a free afternoon lecture at Denver Public Library, or by live stream through the internet app, Periscope. Each series features approximately 8-10 lectures.

**Indian Market & Powwow: May 14 – 15, 2016, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**
Tesoros Cultural Center’s Indian Market & Powwow is Colorado’s largest authentic American Indian art show, featuring nationally acclaimed Indian artists in a variety of mediums, including pottery, sculpture and jewelry. The Powwow honors an American Indian veteran and all veterans, and is a contest powwow with more than 40 Indian Nations participating. Admission to Tesoro’s Indian Market & Powwow is $5 for adults, $3 for students with ID and free for children under 12, seniors 65+ and Tesoro members.

**1830s Rendezvous & Spanish Colonial Art Market: Sept. 17 – 18, 2016, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**
In celebration of early 19th century Southwestern culture, Tesoro Cultural Center brings together a village of mountain men and women interpreters, providing a living, historic look at life during the fur trade era at Old Bent’s Fort. An award-winning Spanish colonial and Western juried art show also takes place, as do artist demonstrations, live music, storytelling and interactive and engaging presentations. Admission to this event is free.

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Tesoros Cultural Center | www.TesorosCulturalCenter.org | (303) 839-1671
Farolito Lighting & Pinecone Ceremony: Nov. 27, 2016, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
The Farolito Lighting & Pinecone Ceremony is a wonderful way to kick off holiday festivities. A unique alternative to the typical tree-lighting ceremony, Tesoro Cultural Center enacts holiday traditions of the 19th century by lighting farolitos – paper bags filled with sand and illuminated with candles. Each year, an honoree is chosen who has “lit the hearts and minds of us all” in our community, and this individual will turn on the holiday lights and farolitos. As a part of the pinecone ceremony, guests are given a piece of paper, and invited to write a message to someone who lives far away or has passed. The message is tucked inside the pinecone and tossed into a bonfire; 19th century ancestors believed that as the fire burned, the messages were transported to the heavens. Admission to this event is free.

Annual Holiday Auction Party: Dec. 6, 2016, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Tesoro Cultural Center’s annual Holiday Auction Party is a festive celebration featuring live and silent auctions, live bluegrass music, cash bar and hearty hor d’oeuvres provided by The Fort. Beautiful and unique jewelry and art are donated to the auctions by esteemed artists that often participate in Tesoro’s Indian Market & Powwow and the 1830s Rendezvous and Spanish Colonial Art Market. Just in time for holiday shopping! A much appreciated entry donation of $25 may be purchased at TesoroCulturalCenter.org or at the door.

Las Posadas: Dec. 24, 2016, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Taking place on Christmas Eve on the grounds of The Fort, Tesoro’s annual Las Posadas celebration is a truly Colorado holiday activity. Reenacting Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem, this one-night Las Posadas is a shortened version of Mexico’s traditional nine-day event. But it’s not short on fun – kids are invited to be part of the processional with a live nativity scene and take a crack at the piñata. Musicians play traditional Las Posadas songs, and Mexican hot chocolate and biscochitos are served. All ages and all faiths are welcome to participate in this free event.

Contact
For more information, call (303) 839-1671, or visit TesoroCulturalCenter.org.
Board of Directors

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Honorary Founding Directors: Dr. Samuel P. Arnold (1926 – 2006) and Dr. Mary Fox Arnold (1925 – 2005).
TESORO CULTURAL CENTER PRESENTS COLORADO’S LARGEST AUTHENTIC AMERICAN INDIAN ART SHOW
16th Annual Indian Market & Powwow Features Nationally Acclaimed Indian Artists for
Weekend-Long Cultural Celebration

MORRISON, Colo. – January 11, 2016 – Tesoro Cultural Center will host its 16th annual Indian Market & Powwow on Saturday, May 14, and Sunday, May 15, on the grounds of Colorado’s iconic restaurant, The Fort. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day and entrance fees — $5 for adults, $3 for students with valid IDs, and free admission for children under 12, seniors 65+ and Tesoro members — benefit Tesoro’s ongoing educational programs.

Tesoro Cultural Center’s Indian Market & Powwow is a yearly tribute to the American Indian tribes that shaped the cultural community of Old Bent’s Fort, an important fur trading post that operated along the famous Santa Fe Trail in the 1830s. In celebration of early Southwestern history, Tesoro hosts nationally acclaimed artists, dancers and drum groups for an artist-centered gathering, as well as educational and interactive exhibits on American Indian culture, for a fun-filled, family weekend. Children will love the hawk and eagle demonstrations from HawkQuest, as handlers discuss the importance of raptors in Indian culture. The public is invited to join contestants in inter-tribal friendship dances.

Additionally, artists will sell their wares and demonstrate their crafts in a show juried by the Council for Indigenous Arts and Culture. More than 50 inter-tribal American Indian dancers and drum groups will share their ancestral heritage through traditional dance and regalia. The Colorado Governor’s office has recognized the annual Indian Market & Powwow as the largest authentic American Indian art show in Colorado and has even issued past Proclamations of Official Indian Market & Powwow Days directly from the office of Governor John Hickenlooper, for the past four years. New and returning artists attending this year’s Indian Market & Powwow will be listed and continuously updated on Tesoro’s website.

Alongside celebrations of art, dance and cultural heritage, Tesoro’s Indian Market & Powwow honors outstanding American Indian Veterans each year, in observance of Armed Forces Day, in order to thank them for their service.

Delicious concessions featuring Southwestern cuisine are available from The Fort and Northern Colorado Intertribal Powwow Association. All programming supports Tesoro’s year-round mission of preserving and making available to the community the artistic treasures of our American past. Other annual Tesoro events include the 1830s Rendezvous and Spanish Colonial Art Market each September, and the Holiday Auction Party each December.

About the Tesoro Cultural Center
The Tesoro Cultural Center (Tesoro means “treasure” in Spanish) is committed to protecting and making available to the community the artistic treasures of our American past. All Tesoro events are inspired by Colorado’s rich history and shared experiences with Southwest, Spanish, Mexican, Native American, African American and early European cultures. From art and cuisine to historical re-enactments and music, the Tesoro Cultural Center’s mission is to create enriched, community-based events and educational outreach programs designed to preserve and celebrate our cultural heritage. For more information, please visit www.tesoroculturalcenter.org.

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