

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

For more information, media representatives should contact:

Kathleen Benedict, Executive Director

Poudre Heritage Alliance

[970.295.4851](tel:970.295.4851)

kbenedict@poudreheritage.org

Subject: 2016 Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area Events with City of Fort Collins

The Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area (CALA) and its non-profit managing entity, the Poudre Heritage Alliance (PHA), are partnering with the City of Fort Collins on a number of projects and events that increase public awareness about the history of the Cache la Poudre River and Fort Collins. The CALA was designated by Congress in 1996 to provide for the interpretation of the unique and significant contributions to our nation's heritage of cultural and historical lands, waterways, and structures.

The Poudre Heritage Alliance Board of Directors is made up of over 14 members representing municipalities, non-profit organizations, and at-large members. Our current representative from the City of Fort Collins is Councilman Bob Overbeck. Past Fort Collins representatives have included Councilmen Ben Manville and Bill Bertschy.

Through our 2016 federal funding, Councilman Bob Overbeck and PHA Executive Director, Kathleen Benedict, will be attending the Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA) annual meeting, February 8-11, 2016 in Washington, D.C. The annual meeting allows the National Heritage Area (NHA) to not only meet with representatives of the nation's other 49 heritage areas, but also to meet with Senators and Congressional representatives to share with them the progress of our Heritage Area and stress the importance of their support of this nationally significant resource.

The CALA and PHA are also partnering with the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department for interpretive signage in the city's natural areas, through awards from the PHA's Large Grant Program. One of these signs, currently in progress, interprets the site of the historic Council Tree and the people of the Northern Arapahoe Tribe. A trip including PHA and City representatives to meet with Northern Arapahoe Tribal Elders on the Wind River Reservation in Fremont County, Wyoming has been planned for February to discuss the wording and photography for the interpretive sign as well as future opportunities to share the story of the Council Tree and Arapahoe leader Friday with the community.

Other grants awarded to the City of Fort Collins by the PHA include the Biodiversity Wall, Food Forage & Farm, and Sesquicentennial exhibits at the Museum of Discovery. Additionally, the PHA is providing funding for the Art in Public Places Linden Street Park project which will educate visitors on the Cache la Poudre River Watershed.

- Large Grant applications for \$3000 or more, can be submitted from January 1, 2016 through March 1, 2016. More information and application materials can be found on www.poudreheritage.org.

2016 also brings two new programs to the CALA through an Active Trails grant received from the National Park Foundation:

- The Heritage Culturalist Volunteer Program trains and certifies volunteers in the history and recreational opportunities of the CALA and then those volunteers will share that knowledge with the public through events, activities, and programs of the PHA. Additionally, the volunteers will get to record information about specific historic sites for the National Park Service Heritage Documentation Program and for the digital resources of the CALA. The training will take place on March 10, 11, 12 in Larimer and Weld Counties and will feature classroom and field learning sessions presented by local historians, authors, and retired Colorado Supreme Court Justice, Gregory Hobbs. Find out more and apply online at: www.poudreheritage.org/heritage-culturalist-volunteer-program.
- The second new program that the CALA is introducing in 2016 is an employee wellness program entitled, "On the Trail to Health, Heritage, and Happiness." They are partnering with the Northern Colorado Rehabilitation Hospital and Long Term Acute Hospital in Johnstown. The program features routes on the Poudre Trail in Larimer and Weld counties and engages their minds as well as their bodies through heritage trivia questions and "seasonal selfies" taken at historical points in the National Heritage Area.

For more information about these programs, please contact the Poudre Heritage Alliance Office at admin@poudreheritage.org or 970-295-4851.