COATALLY STENCE MAGAZINE

APRIL | MAY 2014





MACGILLIVRAY FREEMAN

JOURNEY TO



NOW SHOWING IN PHIPPS IMAX THEATER

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Dear Members,

Wow! What an exciting year 2014 is already shaping up to be at the Museum! It was wonderful to see so many of you at our grand opening events for the new Morgridge Family Exploration Center and Rocky Mountain Science Collections Center. Mr. Bones used his famous *T. rex* puppet to officially open the new wing. *T. rex* gnashed his teeth, the ribbon was cut, and we were ready for business.



Many people have asked me what's next now that we have reached such a significant milestone. First we are looking forward to June 7 when we will open the brand-new Discovery Zone, made possible by Kaiser Permanente. Please note that the current Discovery Zone will close on April 6 in preparation for a dynamic new play-and-learn area that will be nearly twice as large as the present one.

In addition, I am currently leading Museum staff through a process to refresh our long-range strategic plan. The new wing is just one of many significant accomplishments we have achieved through the Museum 20/20 Strategic Plan, which has guided our work for nearly 10 years. We are excited as we explore possibilities for how the Museum can continue to be relevant and best serve the Colorado community.

The Museum is also actively participating in the City of Denver's Imagine 2020 Cultural Plan, which was officially launched in early March. This community-based plan reflects the input of more than 5,000 Denver citizens. The plan aligns beautifully with the Museum's own aspirations because it promotes a collective vision that ensures arts, culture, and creativity are fully integrated into daily life, work, and play in our beloved home city. You'll be hearing more about the initiatives in the coming months.

For now, I encourage you to come see Maya: Hidden World Revealed, which is staged in the new Anschutz Gallery and the Phipps Gallery. The Museum was privileged to have collaborated with three other major U.S. museums to bring this exhibition to the public. There is so much more to the ancient Maya culture than their connection to end-of-the-world prophecies. Visitors of all ages are enjoying this eye-opening experience.

Thank you for your continued support. See you at the Museum!

George Sparks
President and CEO

You may contact George Sparks by e-mail at president@dmns.org.

CONTENTS

2 IN THE KNOW

Here's the latest about what's going on inside and outside the Museum.

4 FEATURED EXHIBITION

Maya versus Mayan? Learn the distinction as we reveal some of the many details you'll explore about this fascinating ancient culture in Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed.

6 MUSEUM INSIDER

The Museum's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint was carefully considered each step of the way as we constructed the newly opened wing.

8 Museum treasures

Ruth M. Underhill escaped the constraints of Victorian life and became a renowned anthropologist, as evidenced in her personal papers in the Museum collections.

10 GET INVOLVED

Let's work together to inspire the scientist in everyone.

12 DISCOVER SCIENCE

Some very special artifacts are on their way home.

FIND IT @ DMNS.ORG

- Print-at-home tickets for Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed, Planetarium and IMAX shows, lectures, and programs
- Reservations for members events
- Hours and showtimes
- Calendar of events
- Museum Scientists
- Today's Weather at the Museum
- Heavens Above sky information
- Membership renewals and purchases

Join Our Community:









ON THE COVER

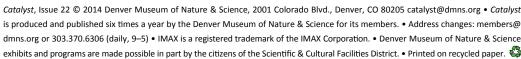
From the geology collections

Amethyst

DMNH 9073

Las Vigas, Veracruz, Mexico









MAKING WAY FOR THE NEW DISCOVERY ZONE

The current Discovery Zone will close on Sunday, April 6, in preparation for a brand-new Discovery Zone opening in June.

When it opened in 2002, the Discovery Zone was the Museum's first play-and-learn center geared toward families with young children. It was intended to be a short-term program; however, it was a huge hit with families and has remained a major attraction at the Museum. A new concept and home for the Discovery Zone emerged as the Museum planned the recently opened Morgridge Family Exploration Center.

The new Discovery Zone, made possible by Kaiser Permanente, will be a welcoming and dynamic environment nearly twice as large as the current one. The overall idea is that early learners will do what scientists do: look, ask, discover, make, and share. Age-appropriate, multisensory exhibits, activities, and programs will focus on science process skills as children explore basic concepts in physical science, life science, earth and space sciences, math, and human culture. Find out more about the new Discovery Zone @ www.dmns.org/DZ.

Members will be the first to preview the new Discovery Zone on June 5 and 6! Find out more on the back cover of this magazine or @ www.dmns.org/memberevents.

Here are some suggestions for other ways for young children to enjoy the Museum while you await the new Discovery Zone!

- AstroTot Training, Space Odyssey, Level 1: Strap on a jet-pack and take off for space from the kid-sized shuttle flight deck.
- Activity table outside former Discovery Zone, Level 2: Try out crafts, games, and experiments about science and nature.
- Tykes Peak, Expedition Health, Level 2: Multisensory experiences, such as shadow play and testing your heart beat, get kids' bodies moving.
- Wildlife Halls, Levels 2 & 3: Count baby animals, hunt for colors, and visit the new kid-sized statues of black bear cubs and a fur seal pup in Bears and Sea Mammals Hall.
- Camp PaleoPals, Prehistoric Journey, Level 3: Puppets, books, puzzles, and real fossils on display get kids excited about our ancient world.









EARTH DAY 2014

Celebrate Earth Day with us on Sunday, April 13! This SCFD Community Free Day will feature family-friendly activities throughout the Museum about animals, energy, and planetary wellness. Become an animal flier during Science on the Fly in the new Science Atrium, enjoy free face painting, explore natural resources with the National Park Service, take a scavenger hunt, meet Museum scientists who will have collections from behind the scenes you can see and touch, and encounter Mr. Bones the giant dinosaur puppet! Plus, come to a special One Book 4 Colorado reading and book giveaway with Dr. Scott (Sampson) the Paleontologist, host of the PBS KIDS series Dinosaur Train and the Museum's own chief curator. Find out more @ www.dmns.org.

HEAVENS ABOVE

Without a doubt, nature's celestial highlights include solar and lunar eclipses. As many as seven eclipses can take place in a single year, although this hasn't occurred since 1982. The fewest possible number is four, which is the case for 2014. There are two solar eclipses, one annular and one partial, and two total lunar eclipses; three of these will be observed from North America.

The first of two total lunar eclipses occurs April 14-15. Skies permitting, the eclipse can be seen in its entirety across North America. Partial phases begin before midnight on the 14th. Totality lasts 78 minutes, from 1:06 to 2:24 a.m. MDT on the 15th, with mid-eclipse at 1:46 a.m. As an added bonus, the bright star Spica is positioned just 2° west of the darkened moon.

A lunar eclipse occurs when the moon passes through Earth's shadow, or umbra. Three types of lunar eclipses are possible-total, partial, and



penumbral—determined by where the moon is in correlation to the umbra. If the moon passes completely into the umbra, a total lunar eclipse is preceded and followed by partial phases. If the moon passes part way into the umbra, only partial phases occur. If it passes just outside the umbra, it still encounters the weak shadow cast by Earth.

The additional visible eclipses in 2014 are a total lunar and a partial solar, each visible in October. April's lunar eclipse is the first of four consecutive total lunar eclipses in 2014 and 2015! These eclipse foursomes, or tetrads, are uncommon. The last one occurred in 2003 and the next one will begin in 2032.

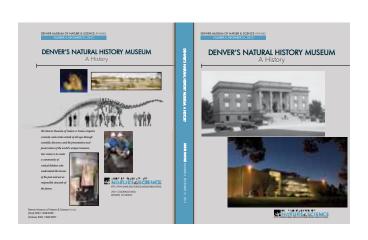
Find sky information for April and May @ www.dmns.org/heavensabove.

MUSEUM HISTORY VOLUME PUBLISHED

A massive effort to publish the Museum's 113-year history in a consolidated volume was completed in late 2013 with the release of Denver's Natural History Museum: A History.

The tome contains a summative history of the whole institution, beginning in the late 1800s when Denver leaders began pursuing the establishment of a natural history museum, extending into exciting recent days as the Museum prepared to open the new 126,000-squarefoot expansion. The volume also features comprehensive chapters about exhibits, education, and the research and collections departments. The story is accompanied by hundreds of photos from the Museum's archives.

The volume is published as number 4 of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science Annals and is available as a free download @ www.dmns.org/ science/museum-publications. Copies may be purchased @ lulu.com.



NOW OPEN

The ancient Maya have arrived in Denver and thousands of visitors have already become completely immersed in experiencing the amazing Maya culture. Here are a few things you'll discover in this family-friendly exhibition.

MAYA VS. MAYAN

The common convention accepted in the academic community is that the word Maya modifies people, culture, artifacts, glyphs, religion, and architecture, and the word Mayan refers exclusively to language. There are about 6 million Maya living today in southeastern Mexico and Central America. The word Mayan as a nonlinguistic adjective does not exist in Mayan or Spanish, their primary languages.

Examine how scholars have pieced together the story of the ancient Maya by studying sites and texts that were previously inaccessible.





MARK YOUR CALENDAR

This is your chance to sort out the story of the Maya calendar after it received intense air time in late 2012 as part of an end-of-days prediction. The ancient Maya were sophisticated astronomers and mathematicians, developing systems for charting a 365-day solar cycle and tracking sky phenomena associated with seasonal changes—knowledge that could help ensure a good harvest.

An interactive calendar translator shows you how the two main Maya calendar cycles intersect and gives you a chance to print a personalized Maya glyph showing your birth date.

MOST PRECIOUS JADE

To the ancient Maya, no stone was more precious than jade because its light green color embodied all that nourished life on Earth. At Maya sites archaeologists have unearthed hundreds of jade objects carved into pendants, beads, facemasks, and human and animal figurines. The largest carved jade object discovered in Belize was a 10-pound head depicting the sun god Kinich Ahau.

See a fantastic jade mosaic mask in the tomb of an elite Maya, along with other objects this individual took with him on his journey to the underworld.

GAUGING THEIR BEAUTY

The Maya practiced some forms of personal beautification that would likely be considered extreme today, such as dental and cranial modification. However, some practices would be familiar, such as tattooing, body painting, and gauging, in which ear piercings are deliberately stretched using large pieces of jewelry made from a variety of materials, often stone, wood, or ceramic.

Examine the variety of objects and processes that were used for physical enhancement, including teeth with dental inlays and exquisite jewelry.

CHOCOHOLICS

The Maya were well-known for producing high-quality cacao. Cacao was processed as a drink in ancient Mesoamerica, not as a solid bar. Chocolate was offered as a gift to the gods and considered valuable enough to be used as currency. The Maya used staples from their diet such as vanilla and chilies to accent their chocolate. Other staples of a Maya diet were corn, beans, squash, and fruits.

Explore more about the Maya diet and other aspects of everyday life, and try your hand at backstrap loom weaving, a practice continued today among the Maya.

MEMBERS TIPS FOR VISITING MAYA

- Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with some extended hours during the run. Timed tickets are required. Book your print-at-home tickets @ www.dmns.org/maya and avoid a handling fee.
- Reservations are also available at 303.370.6000 (daily, 9-5). There is a \$2 fee per ticket by phone. Afternoon is the best time to call.
- · Advance tickets are highly recommended. Weekday late afternoons and weekend early mornings tend to be less busy. School groups generally visit during weekday mornings. Spring Break 2013 in metro Denver will occur from March 24 to April 6.
- Bring your membership card and photo ID to the Museum, even if you have your print-at-home tickets with you.
- Please arrive at the Museum at least 15 minutes before your entry time, and allow time for parking and queuing.
- The Maya exhibition is displayed in two galleries, Phipps Gallery and the new Anschutz Gallery. Please wear comfortable shoes and plan to be in the exhibition about 90 minutes to 2 hours.

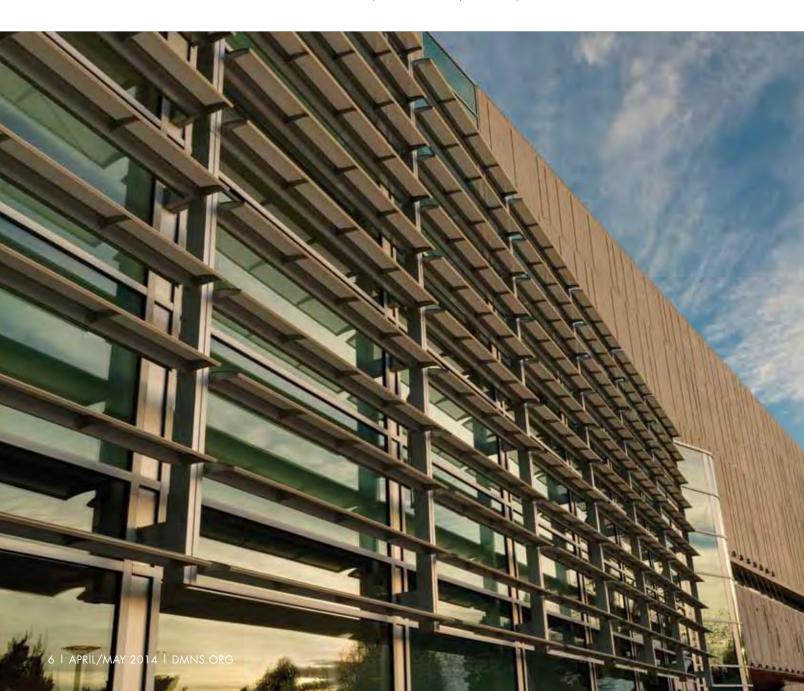
Development of Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed was led by the Science Museum of Minnesota in conjunction with the Denver Museum of Nature & Science; Museum of Science, Boston; and the San Diego Natural History Museum.

FIND IT @ DMNS.ORG

Find out more @ www.dmns.org/maya about how Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed will give you and your family new perspective on what we really know about the Maya and their remarkable achievements.

BUILDING GREEN: ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE NEW WING

Most of us are using LED light bulbs and installing more energy-efficient appliances in our homes because we realize that small individual changes can have big overall results. When you consider the implications of equipping 126,000-square-feet of new construction, you especially realize how important it is to make careful choices. As the Museum planned and built the new wing, every feature was analyzed for how it could reduce the Museum's footprint and have a positive impact on the environment.





The result is a building poised to receive LEED Platinum certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) from the U.S. Green Building Council, the highest rating possible for new construction. The new five-level wing-home to the Morgridge Family Exploration Center and the Rocky Mountain Science Collections Center—will use 50 percent less energy than a comparable structure. So if you are outside the new wing and notice that the south side of the building seems to have giant venetian blinds, it does, and they are just one feature that will help conserve energy.

In Denver we are fortunate to have abundant sunshine that can be used to great advantage. The automated louvers on the southfacing glass exterior move based on the angle of the sun and reduce "solar loading" in the Exploration Studios. The west-facing exposure of the Exploration Studios incorporates electrochromatic glass that automatically tints to reduce glare and heat from the sun. When you are inside the Studios, you hardly know these energy-saving tricks exist because these spacious rooms are bright and airy and look out over City Park. Daylight harvesting is employed in other parts of the building to take advantage of natural light and reduce electricity use.

The building's heating and cooling plant uses a unique integration of geothermal heat pump technology and recycled water from Denver Water to reduce energy consumption by up to 60 percent. The system was partially funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. A recycled water pipeline was constructed that runs from the new wing, along the west side of the Museum, and through City Park Golf Course to connect with a Denver Water recycled water main.

Geothermal heat pumps take advantage of the ground as an energy source rather than using electricity to heat or cool a building. Recycled water warmed by the ground enters the pump located on Level B1 of the new wing. In the summer, after removing heat from the building, the water is returned to the line approximately 10 degrees warmer, and in the winter it returns 10 degrees cooler. This water is not consumed; 100 percent of it returns to the original line.

Throughout all levels of the wing, recycled materials were used in finishes, and high-efficiency LED lighting and controls, Energy Star appliances, and low-flow plumbing fixtures were installed. The new wing also relies on the rooftop solar thermal panels for domestic hot water and photovoltaic panels for power.

The Rocky Mountain Science Collections Center on Levels B1 and B2 was designed to maintain superior conditions for the priceless artifacts and specimens while also meeting the energy use and sustainability goals for the new wing. Temperature and relative humidity zones were specially defined that maximally safeguard collections while minimizing energy use. Preservation spaces are zoned separately from workspaces to achieve ideal conditions for each setting. Because the Collections Center occupies two levels below ground, the indoor environment is buffered from the weather and naturally requires less energy to maintain.

Outside the building, updated landscaping features native plants, and nonpotable water is used for irrigation. The Nature Plaza is designed as a place for schoolchildren and all Museum and park visitors to appreciate their natural surroundings and make discoveries in their own backyard. It truly connects the Museum with beautiful City Park, its longtime home.

From everyday tasks such as electronics recycling to installing a vast solar array on the roof to considering every aspect of sustainable construction, no matter the size of the project or opportunity, the Museum is committed to encouraging human and planetary wellness.

Facing page: Giant louvers on the south windows of the Morgridge Family Exploration Center control "solar loading" into the Exploration Studios. This page, above left: Recycled materials were used throughout the new wing, including in the Science Atrium, where the carpet contains 39 percent pre-consumer recycled content; above right: The Rocky Mountain Science Collections Center was carefully designed to maximize energy conservation while ensuring artifacts and specimens are stored under very specific environmental conditions.

FIND IT @ DMNS.ORG

Find out more about the Morgridge Family Exploration Center and the Rocky Mountain Science Collections Center @ www.dmns.org/newwing. Learn more about the sustainability features of the new wing during special Earth Day activities on Sunday, April 13. Turn to p. 3 for details.

THE RUTH M. UNDERHILL COLLECTION

BY STEVE NASH, PhD, AND CHIP COLWELL-CHANTHAPHONH, PhD

Among the thousands upon thousands of treasures being moved into the new Rocky Mountain Science Collections Center is an exceptional historical resource. Ruth M. Underhill, one of the 20th century's leading American anthropologists, left her papers to the Museum when she died in 1984, an honor for this institution and an opportunity to ensure that her singular story be preserved.

Underhill's archives remained untouched for years, waiting for the time and resources it would take to tackle the large collection. A few years ago, when we applied for a federal Saving America's Treasures grant, we included the Underhill collection in the scope. We were delighted to receive \$325,000 to help cover the costs associated with properly preparing the anthropology collections for their new home in the collections center. We hired a research assistant, Aly Jabrocki, to organize and archive the Underhill papers.

The collection includes Underhill's original ethnographic notes from her work with Native Americans, her class notes as a PhD student, hand-corrected manuscript drafts, original sound recordings, and nearly 3,000 photographs. In the process of sorting through the mass, Aly discovered about 100 pages that Underhill apparently intended to become her autobiography.









Ruth Murray Underhill was born in 1883 in Westchester County, New York, into a prosperous family. Underhill received a sterling education and longed for a life of adventure, but she was confined by Victorian mores. She finally gained some independence after graduating from Vassar College in 1905 and spending two years traveling Europe without her family. After returning to the States, she became a social worker committed to helping underserved Italian-American women and families. She served with the American Red Cross during World War I, and returned to New York where she was married for nearly a decade before divorcing in 1929.

At the age of 46, Underhill entered Columbia University to pursue a PhD in anthropology. She joined the field as it was gaining recognition as a major discipline in the social sciences, and she was soon rubbing elbows with the world's leading anthropologists. After her first year, Franz Boas, the "father of anthropology," sent her to the American Southwest to study the Tohono O'odham (then called the Papago Indians). Underhill immersed herself in O'odham life, particularly by befriending the women and children. She published The Autobiography of a Papago Woman, which shared the story of Maria Chona and was acclaimed as a pioneering work because of its profound insights into the life experience of a Native American woman.

After securing her PhD, Underhill went to work for the Office of Indian Affairs for about a dozen years, providing her with additional opportunities to observe, document, and publish. While a committed scholar, Underhill was also devoted to making anthropology accessible for the average person so everyone would have the opportunity to come face-to-face with humanity and perhaps solve some of society's challenges. During her career, Underhill published 33 popular and scholarly books, and more than 100 articles and other contributions.

Underhill settled in Denver in 1948 to join the faculty at the University of Denver. She spent five years at DU, before retiring at age 70 to travel and to complete a few "last" projects. Her 1953 book Red Man's America, a seminal textbook on Native American cultures, became a hit and even led to a television program in 1957. She returned

to academia for a brief time, but mostly kept intermittently publishing before she died in Denver a week shy of her 101st birthday.

Although Underhill was recognized by her peers, respect from the Native Americans themselves meant the most to her. In 1980, Underhill was honored by the Tohono O'odham Nation, which proclaimed, "Your works will continue to reinforce the true identity of many more young people, as well as the old. It is with this in mind that we wish to express our deep sense of appreciation." Other tribal councils also recognized her, and Underhill called these honors "the crowning point of my life."

After we discovered the autobiographical notes, it was clear that Underhill's story needed to be told. We embarked on editing a book that would bring Underhill's voice back to life. To flesh out her incomplete memoir, we used 1,000 pages of transcripts from interviews with Underhill between 1979 and 1982 in which, still sharp as she neared 100, she shared many candid reflections on her life.

The result is An Anthropologist's Arrival: A Memoir, which will be published in April by University of Arizona Press. This book not only tells the tale of a remarkably insightful and erudite woman but it also makes Underhill's legacy accessible to researchers, establishing a foundation for securing her legacy at the Museum and beyond.

For many years, Ruth Underhill worked among the Native Americans of the Desert Southwest. Facing page, clockwise from top, among Tohono O'odham women from the Rodeo Queen court, ca. 1980; on horseback in Arizona, ca. 1950; with a Navajo man and child. This page: Underhill in the field.

FIND IT @ DMNS ORG

Dr. Steve Nash is chair and curator of archaeology and Dr. Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh is curator of anthropology in the Anthropology Department. They will present a lecture about Underhill in June. Find it on p. 6 of the insert, or @ www.dmns.org/afterhours.

An Anthropologist's Arrival: A Memoir will be on sale in the Museum Shop later this spring. Members receive a 10% discount on books in the shop.

FUN BENEFITS, VITAL SUPPORT: JOIN THE GIVING CLUB

Thank you for supporting the Museum as a member! Your membership not only offers you great benefits but it also helps the Museum inspire and serve our community.

We invite you to upgrade your membership today and deepen your relationship with the Museum. Joining the Giving Club at \$300 or above will bring you unique access to the Museum, with new opportunities for discovery and learning.



These are some of the benefits available to Giving Club members, based on level:

"Anytime" Tickets: All Giving Club members receive free "anytime" tickets to all surcharged exhibitions, including Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed. This benefit guarantees quick and easy access to temporary exhibitions, making your visit even more convenient. No reservations are needed, even if it's sold out! The

number of tickets you receive is determined by your membership level.

Discovery Zone Sneak Peek: Be the first to experience the Discovery Zone during a Giving Club members-only event on Tuesday, June 3. Enjoy family, food, and fun as your favorite youngsters explore this amazing new place to play and learn!

IMAX Family Nights: July 9 and 10 will be a fun opportunity for Giving Club members to go to the movies, IMAX style! Enjoy some of your IMAX favorites and complimentary movie munchies and soft drinks.

Behind-the-Scenes Night: On Tuesday, September 16, Giving Club members and their families will be treated to a free event that offers opportunities to meet Museum scientists, explore treasures and collections not on public display, and enjoy a buffet and cash bar.

It is easier and more affordable than ever to become a Giving Club member with monthly installments of as little as \$25 per month! Find out more about Giving Club levels and benefits @ www.dmns.org/join/giving-club.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PARTY WITH A PURPOSE

The Museum's Young Professionals group is now more than 100 strong! This program offers its members opportunities to connect with other young professionals in metro Denver who share a passion for science and want to help the Museum inspire and serve the Colorado community.

In addition to the basic benefits of a Museum membership and access to events promoted in *Catalyst*, "YP" members enjoy many other benefits and events planned especially for them. Mark your calendars now for two of the most popular YP events of the year,



Science on Tap, on Monday, July 21, and the After Dark Soiree on Friday, November 21. A quarterly e-newsletter from the co-chairs of the YP Committee provides members with event updates and profiles of their YP colleagues.

Find out more @ www.dmns.org/join/young-professional-membership.



KT CHALLENGE **OFFERS EXCLUSIVE ACCESS TO MUSEUM CURATORS**

Imagine spending time with Museum curators touring ghost towns in Gilpin County, or canoeing on the Colorado River learning how rivers have changed the American West, or exploring Colorado's ancient supervolcanoes.

Thanks to the generosity of longtime Museum donors Tim and Kathryn Ryan, these exclusive opportunities are available only through the KT Challenge. The program is named for the Ryans and is also a reference to the KT boundary, or the Cretaceous-Tertiary geologic boundary, which is well exposed in the Denver Basin.

The program was created in 2006 to more deeply engage the Giving Club, a group of donors who support the Museum through the highest membership levels.

"I was fortunate to go to a college where I had great scientists as my teachers," said Tim Ryan, current chair of the Board of Trustees and president of Ryan Exploration Inc. "There were quite often lectures and field trips that got me so excited about what I was studying and created a love of learning. Our Museum has equally wonderful scientists, and I wanted to create a way in which members of the Museum could experience that same excitement I recall."

The KT Challenge is an annual competitive process in which



Curators James Hagadorn and Ian Miller (from left) share a fossil of a giant Apatosaurus scapula with members at a KT Challenge event.

the Museum's research and collections staff are encouraged to think outside the box and propose a unique experience. Up to four proposals are selected by the Giving Club Council, and the recipients also receive a financial award to enhance their ongoing research at the Museum.

Find out how to participate in these experiences that are not available through regular members programs and learn about the other benefits at the Naturalist level and above @ www.dmns. org/join/giving-club.



THANK YOU!

More than 250 generous supporters of Inspire Curiosity! raised \$168,000 that will help the Museum inspire the many visitors who will enjoy the new Morgridge Family Exploration Center for years to come. Next time you are in the Museum, please come see your leaf on the Nature Art Wall on Level 2.



MUSEUM RETURNS SACRED STATUES TO KENYA

The Museum repatriated 30 sacred statues called *vigango* to the Republic of Kenya during a signing ceremony with the Museum, Mayor Michael B. Hancock, City Councilman Albus Brooks, and Kenyan officials on February 19. After being shipped to Kenya, the statues will be stored at the National Museums of Kenya, which has agreed to facilitate the statues' return to their source communities.

"It is the Museum's hope that their return will bring healing to the families and communities that have suffered from their absence," said Steve Nash, PhD, chair of the Anthropology Department.

Although the Museum began the process to return the vigango five years ago, a breakthrough was finally reached in late 2013 with the assistance of Mayor Hancock and Councilman Brooks. Through the Sister Cities Program, Denver representatives helped negotiate a repatriation agreement with Alex Ole Magelo, the Nairobi City County Assembly Speaker.

The vigango were created by the Mijikenda, who live along Kenya's east coast. Vigango are carved wood statues between three and nine feet tall that depict abstract human faces and are erected as memorials to revered elders by members of the Gohu Society. Members of the Gohu Society believe the vigango are living objects that hold the spirits of departed elders, an incarnation of the dead. Vigango bring luck and prosperity as the dead elders intercede to bring good tidings to the family who made them and the community as a whole.

In the 1960s, vigango began to enter the international art market. Hundreds were stolen in the ensuing decades, then sold in Europe and the United States. In the United States alone, more than 400 vigango are held in at least 21 museums. In 1990, the Denver Museum of Nature & Science was contacted by a California art dealer, offering to donate 30 vigango on behalf of actor Gene Hackman and film producer Art Linson. The vigango have been safely stored and preserved at the Museum since that time and have never been displayed.

The Mijikenda community and religious leaders strongly object to the removal of vigango. Villagers spend up to twice Kenya's average per capita annual income to make the statues for their dead relatives. They speak of ill fortune and angry spirits who come visiting after the memorials have been removed. There are no current legal instruments that enable Mijikenda communities to reclaim their stolen vigango from museums. Only several dozen vigango have been returned to date.

In 2008, when administrators at our Museum learned about the vigango thefts, they attempted to begin a dialogue with Kenyan officials. Although not legally bound to return the vigango, curators and administrators felt it important to return the cultural items that belonged to the entire community rather than individuals, and whose sacred character was so clear. Deepening the city's relationship with the Kenyan community was also a factor. "Returning the sacred vigango is about more than just the repatriation of artifacts," Councilman Brooks explained. "It symbolizes the renewed connection between Denver and our sister city of Nairobi. The relationship that we are forging today will bear fruit for years to come."

FIND IT @ DMNS.ORG

See a slide show of photos from the Vigango signing ceremony in the digital version of *Catalyst* @ www.dmns.org/catalyst



MEMBERS APPRECIATION DAY

Sunday, April 6

Members, please enjoy these special rewards just for you...

- Save 20% in the Museum Shop*
- Save 20% in the T-Rex Cafe
- Save 50% on IMAX tickets
- Save 50% on Planetarium tickets
- Save 20% on gift memberships

Also, enjoy bringing your young ones to the Discovery Zone before it closes and reopens bigger and better than ever in June!

* Extra 10% discount does not apply to DVDs, CDs, and books. Special offers are valid in person only on Sunday, April 6, 2014, and are not redeemable over the phone or online.

PACK YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD

Use your members benefits at more than 290 museums and science centers nationwide, through the ASTC Passport Program. Typically you will need a photo ID and your Denver Museum of Nature & Science membership card. Find out more @ www.astc.org/members/passlist.htm.

BRINGING GUESTS TO THE MUSEUM?

- Among the basic membership levels, Family Plus is the first level that admits guests! For all other membership levels, only the named members of the household can visit on the membership.
- SCFD Free Days allow the community—and your nonmember guests—free admission to the Museum. Dates for Free Days are available at www.dmns.org/about-us/scfd-free-days.
- Purchase an Add-On for just \$20 to add another person to your membership. Great for nannies, grandparents, and grandchildren! The Add-On member must be named.

GET THE LATEST

If you are not receiving updates from us by e-mail, make sure you are staying in touch with Museum happenings by sending your e-mail address to members@dmns.org. You'll always know the latest on exhibitions, programs, events, and other members-only insider information. Your e-mail address is used for official Museum business only.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS STILL AVAILABLE

We continue to introduce our new membership card. Your membership number stays the same; only the card's bar code will



QUESTIONS?

303.370.6306 (daily, 9-5) members@dmns.org www.dmns.org/members

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