



## Holiday Highlights, 2025 Accomplishments, and Your Support!

Cooler weather is here—and **the Museum remains open (Tuesday-Sunday) for visitors.** While we don't offer regular Saturday train rides in December, this time of year can be especially relaxing for a visit. If you are planning to visit soon, please keep in mind that the Colorado Railroad Museum will be closed December 24-25 and again December 31-January 1.

**The year 2025 has been filled with accomplishments,** including continued work on the Museum's raised viewing platform project as well as locomotive and car restorations, and even traveling steam engines! There's a quick recap of all the accomplishments in this issue; as you review the list, I hope you'll be reminded of just how committed the Colorado Railroad Museum is to the ongoing preservation of Colorado's rich railroading legacy.

The last month of the year is a very important time for the Museum. **We encourage you to support our many ongoing efforts with a generous contribution,** and we also hope that you'll consider adding your name to the list of those who have named the Museum in their estate plans (see separate article in this edition of the *Telegrapher*). For 2026, we have another ambitious year planned for major rehabilitation and restoration projects, along with significant facility improvements. Your generous support will help keep Colorado's rich railroad heritage thriving – we invite you to schedule an online contribution today via Colorado Gives Day or Giving Tuesday!

**The Museum's THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride is in full swing—and SOLD OUT for 2025.** If you have tickets, we look forward to welcoming you soon to this magical

theatrical extravaganza! Finally, as we head into winter, our staff team is putting together a complete schedule of programs and activities for 2026. We'll share those starting next month. In the meantime, my wish is for you and those you love to enjoy the changing seasons while staying safe and warm. We hope to see you soon at the Museum!



Paul Hammond  
Executive Director

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**Update:  
THE  
POLAR**

**EXPRESS™ Train Ride**

***Sold Out for 2025!***

Just like in previous years, there's a lot of excitement surrounding the Colorado Railroad Museum's popular, theatrical THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride, and tickets are **now completely sold out!**

Tickets are not refundable, so returns are fairly rare. Any tickets that do become available will be posted on the Museum's Facebook page for first-come, first-served online purchase. Remember, there's Magic if you BELIEVE! Interested in more information, or seeing a quick video about what all the Museum's THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride experience offers? [Click Here!](#)

## We're Building a Better Museum!

### *Progress and Projects Continue*

In 2025, the Colorado Railroad Museum has continued to make significant strides in its commitment to preserving Colorado's railroad legacy, achieving major restoration milestones and enhancing the visitor experience.

Restoration work continued on historic locomotives and rolling stock. Denver & Rio Grande Western No. 491 received a full tender rebuild and over 2,000 faux rivets to preserve its historic appearance. Its restoration was completed just in time for it to return to service, pulling THE

POLAR EXPRESS™ trains this holiday season. Supporting No. 491 this holiday season is Denver & Rio Grande Western No. 315, which recently arrived in Golden via truck through a special partnership with the Durango Railroad Historical Society. In Durango, restoration of the Museum's Rio Grande Southern caboose No. 0404 progressed, and it is expected to join special winter excursions behind Rio Grande Southern No. 20 along the Durango & Silverton route. Meanwhile, iconic Rio Grande diesel locomotives Nos. 5771 and 5762 were repainted into the single stripe paint scheme made famous during their years pulling the *Rio Grande Zephyr*, with re-lettering and reinstallation of side grilles and appliances planned for



the coming months.

Progress on the rolling stock canopy included the installation of a new raised steel platform, protecting prized pieces of rolling stock while providing fully accessible viewing opportunities. A second track will be constructed in 2026, and Colorado Midland observation car No. 111 will join Chicago, Burlington & Quincy business car No. 96 under the canopy once its exterior restoration is finished, completing this long-awaited facility upgrade. Additionally, a new restroom facility was placed next to the Pavilion, providing long-needed amenities on the east side of the Museum's campus.

The Museum also debuted ***Traqueros: Mexican Trackworkers and the American Railroad***, a powerful new exhibit honoring the largely untold contributions of Mexican laborers to the U.S. rail industry from the late 19th through mid-20th century.

The progress noted above doesn't include many other projects that have been ongoing in the area of restoration and maintenance for the Museum's unparalleled collection of full-sized locomotives and rolling stock. There's so much going on in Golden! All of this progress is possible thanks to support from numerous donors.

To add your support, please visit our online Donation page by [Clicking Here](#), email Director of Development Rob Kramer at [rob@crrm.org](mailto:rob@crrm.org), or call Rob at (720) 274-5149 for more details and/or about donating to the Museum generally or to any of these projects specifically.



## On Track for Colorado Gives Day AND Giving Tuesday

*End-of-Year Giving Opportunities*

Thanks to your continued support, we can continue to proudly say we're Still On Track at the Colorado Railroad Museum!

The Museum has never been more committed to our mission of bringing Colorado's rich railroad heritage to life. The state of our physical facilities is better than ever, and we continue to add improvements that benefit

everyone.

In addition we've created engaging new exhibits, and expanded our cultural partnerships to help inform future interpretive efforts. We've provided Train Rides throughout the year,



grown our school and adult tour programming, generated hours of fascinating on-line content, and hosted special events like *Day Out With Thomas™* and *THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride*.

**Our goal remains simple:** We strive to bring our community together and make history more accessible to everyone. However, to continue this momentum we urgently need your support!

**December 9, 2025 is Colorado Gives Day. But you don't have to wait until then!** You can schedule a gift today to help ensure the Museum earns a matching percentage of the \$1M+ incentive fund available to all participating nonprofits. Last year, Coloradans rallied to raise over \$54 million for Colorado non-profit organizations like the Colorado Railroad Museum. You can help by going online now at <https://www.coloradogives.org/organization/coloradorailroadmuseum> and scheduling your donation.

If you live outside of Colorado, you may be more familiar with the worldwide online giving day GivingTuesday. This year, the Colorado Railroad Museum is also participating in **GivingTuesday on Tuesday, December 2**. This year, GivingTuesday is especially exciting because donations made through [ColoradoGives.org](https://www.coloradogives.org) on December 2, 2025, will count toward the Museum's Colorado Gives Day fundraiser and help unlock a share of the Colorado Gives Foundation's \$1M+ Incentive Fund, amplifying your gift's impact. No matter where you live, donating through [ColoradoGives.org](https://www.coloradogives.org) is the most effective online means of supporting the Museum and ensuring your contribution helps preserve Colorado's rich railroad heritage. Every gift, big or small, makes a difference—and with the incentive fund, your generosity will go even further in helping us reach our goals. And there's even more good news—when you set up a new monthly donation between now and December 9 at [ColoradoGives.org](https://www.coloradogives.org), the Colorado Gives Foundation will automatically match your first month's gift up to \$100. With \$250,000 available in matching funds across all nonprofits, now is the perfect time to make your support go twice as far!

We look forward to another year filled with accomplishment, and we remain grateful for your continued encouragement and support. If you've supported the Museum in the past, you may have already received our Annual Appeal letter in the mail, outlining more of our plans for the coming year. Thank you for helping to keep the Colorado Railroad Museum "Still On Track" as we head into 2026!

# Holiday Highlights at the Museum

*What to Expect in December and Early January*

**Holiday Hours:** If you are planning to visit the Museum around the holidays, please keep in mind that the Colorado Railroad Museum will be closed December 24-25 and again

December 31-January 1. We look forward to seeing you Tuesday-Sunday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. otherwise!

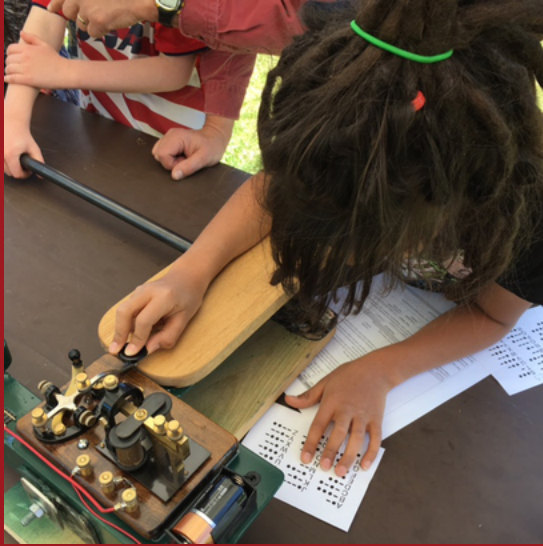


**Holiday Shopping:** The Depot Store is open during regular Museum hours for your holiday shopping needs! We have calendars, books, magazines, THE POLAR EXPRESS™ themed merchandise, and plenty of other special items to choose from. Thinking about giving that special gift to a railroad enthusiast you know? Call us at (303) 279-4591 during business hours or stop by the Museum to peruse the gift shop!

**Visiting the Museum:** Thinking about a visit to the Colorado Railroad Museum during the upcoming Holiday Season? The Museum is a great place to bring your out-of-town guests and family! If the weather's nice, you'll be able to tour the many locomotives and railroad cars outdoors, as always. But even if the weather outside is frightful, we have some delightful things to do indoors! Discover our newest exhibit ***Traqueros: Mexican Trackworkers and the American Railroad***, which highlights the vital, yet often untold, stories of Mexican and Mexican American laborers who built and maintained America's railroads from the late 19th century through the mid-20th century.

Another exhibit currently on display is the ***2025 Winners from the Center for Railroad Photography & Art***, which opened in September in the Depot Hallway Gallery. This exhibit features 16 visually engaging works (Judges Also Liked honorees are included along with the winners), showcasing not only Colorado's rich railroad history, but also the many creative people—around the world—who help keep the spirit of railroading alive and well in the 21st century.

**Train Rides:** Regular Saturday Train Rides are NOT offered in December and early January; these will return beginning in mid-January 2026.



## Calendar of Events

*Fun Offerings for 2026!*

Our staff team is working hard to finalize a complete schedule of programs and activities for 2026, which will be released next month. We anticipate that our Calendar of Events for 2026 will look similar to what we offered in 2025—with a few new twists. Train rides will resume Saturdays in mid-January, with Galloping Goose rides on selected Tuesdays also returning in the winter and spring. Also, we expect to offer a full suite of Spring Break and other family-friendly activities in March and April to help keep us “Still On Track!” For the latest updates, please visit our [website](#). Thank you for your continued interest and support!

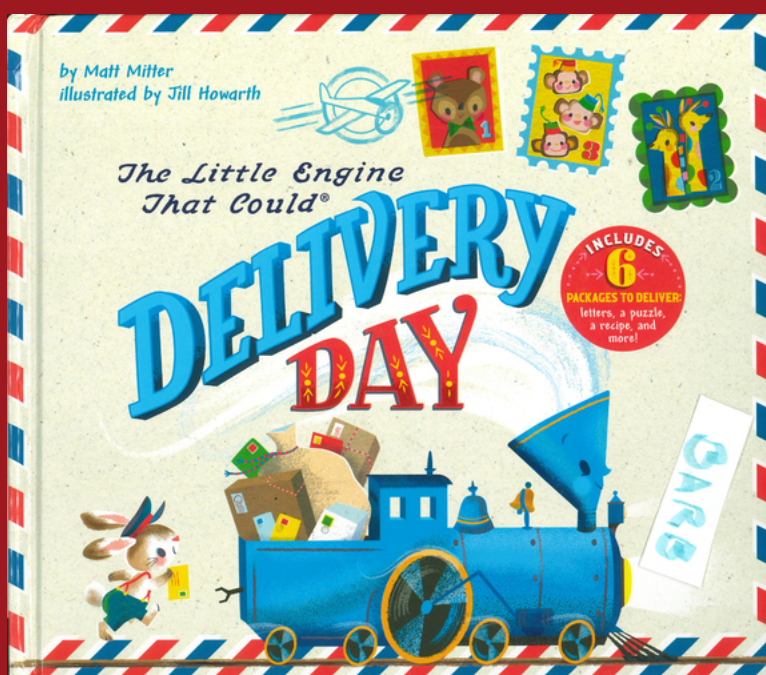


**Colorado Railroad Museum Legacy Society**

*An Invitation to Add Your Name!*

What will your legacy be? By including the Colorado Railroad Museum in your estate plans, you'll be ensuring Colorado's rich railroad heritage continues to be preserved, restored, and shared for the benefit of future generations. Consider making a gift in your will, trust, or other beneficiary designation.

If you let us know that the Museum is included in your estate plans, we'll add your name(s) to our Colorado Railroad Museum Legacy Society. You will thereafter receive an invitation to a special, annual gathering with the Museum's Executive Director, plus invitations to special receptions and event the occasional off-site excursion. For more information or to add your name to the Legacy Society, please contact Rob Kramer at (720) 628-2524 or via email: [rob@crrm.org](mailto:rob@crrm.org).



## The Latest Online Content

*New Virtual Programs Released!*

During the month of November, the Colorado Railroad Museum's staff team has once again created new programs that YOU can experience in the comfort of your own home. All Aboard, Online!

Now available are new episodes of all our popular, ongoing

series, including the latest Storytime & Craft episode with a fun craft-making activity your younger child(ren) will enjoy doing at home. And, if you're still craving delicious food and beverage (this time with a holiday connection), you won't want to miss our most recent Dining on the Rails post— Roast Young Turkey and World War II.

These videos help you to experience Colorado's rich railroading heritage even if you can't make it to the Museum in person this month. [Click Here](#) to search the latest video offerings on our website!

There's Lots More Content to Like, Share and Follow! Whether you're on Facebook, Instagram, or YouTube, the Colorado Railroad Museum posts interesting tidbits, stories, and videos throughout the week. Come along as we visit a Colorado "Railroad Attraction of the Month" throughout the year (for November this was the Aurora History Museum), a



"Highlights of the Collection" (for November this was visiting special guest locomotive Denver & Rio Grande Western No. 315), and see what's going on with programs and exhibits, in the Museum Roundhouse, and more.

[Click Here](#) to see a collected feed of all our Social Media channels and posts, and "find your follow!"



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Colorado **RAILROAD** Museum.org

**Still On Track!**

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