



Media Fact Sheet

Official Name: Buffalo Bill Center of the West

Location: 720 Sheridan Avenue
Cody, Wyoming 82414
307-587-4771

Website: <http://centerofthewest.org>

Social Media: [facebook.com/centerofthewest](https://www.facebook.com/centerofthewest)
<https://plus.google.com/+BuffaloBillCenteroftheWest/posts>
twitter.com/centerofthewest / [@centerofthewest](https://twitter.com/centerofthewest)

History: The Buffalo Bill Museum opened as a log cabin in 1927 in downtown Cody; in 1969 it moved to a new wing of what was then-named the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, joining the Whitney Western Art Museum (opened in 1959 as the Whitney Gallery of Western Art) on the Center's campus. The Plains Indian Museum opened in 1979, the Cody Firearms Museum in 1976, the McCracken Research Library in 1980, and the Draper Natural History Museum in 2002.

At a Glance

The Buffalo Bill Center of the West is the premier destination to experience the authentic story of the American West. Five world-class perspectives on aspects of the West mesh to move visitors to discover and develop personal connections to that story. A research library supports exploration of these perspectives.

The Center is an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It takes visitors on an adventurous ride through the history of the American West via its 300,000 square feet of collections of artifacts, interactive displays, western art, and exhibits housed within five museums and one research library. The Center appeals to visitors of all ages and is an attraction that can be enjoyed over a few hours or a few days.

Less than a one-hour drive from Yellowstone National Park, the Buffalo Bill Center of the West has become a memorable part of millions of family vacations and was recently named one of the “favorite museums for group travelers” by the National Tour Association.



MUSEUMS



The **Buffalo Bill Museum** explores the history and myth of the American West through the private life of William F. Cody, his public persona of Buffalo Bill and the world-traveling spectacle—Buffalo Bill’s Wild West—that made him famous.

The **Plains Indian Museum** reveals how the art, history, traditions, and contemporary lives of Plains Indian peoples helped shape the character of the American West.



The **Draper Natural History Museum** illuminates the American West’s binding relationship between man and nature with a focus on the wildlife and landscapes of the Yellowstone region.

The **Cody Firearms Museum** examines the people and culture of the American West through the world's most comprehensive exhibit of American firearms.



The **Whitney Western Art Museum** depicts the tapestry of the American West through the eyes of the artists who interpreted and defined it.

The **McCracken Research Library** advances the appreciation and understanding of the American West by preserving its archival history and supporting exploration of undiscovered resources.



SPECIAL EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

Journeying West: Distinctive Firearms from the Smithsonian

On view at least through fall 2015



Explore this collection of 64 unique firearms from the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History. Among the objects on display from the National Firearms Collection are a one-of-a-kind African musket that belonged to Thomas Jefferson, one of Catherine the Great's rifles, and a multi-blade folding "knife" with 100 utensils, including a five-shot, .22 pinfire revolver. Notable are innovative and rare prototypes and patent models—some of which were downright dangerous.

Wyoming Grasslands: Photographs by Michael P. Berman and William S. Sutton

May 10 – August 15, 2015

A partnership between the Center of the West and the Nature Conservancy, this special exhibition features the images of Michael Berman and William Sutton, which cover everything from prairie grasslands and meadows to sagebrush-steppe and foothill grasslands. The exhibition highlights the diversity and importance of grasslands to wildlife habitat.



Painted Journeys: The Art of John Mix Stanley

June 6 – August 29, 2015

Reviving the work of John Mix Stanley as a leading American artist, this special exhibition brings together, for the first time, works representing every aspect of John Mix Stanley's remarkable artistic career. A nineteenth-century traveler and adventurer, Stanley helped shape our national identity and western legacy.



Adornment in the West: The American Indian as Artist

June 19 – October 10, 2015

This special exhibition celebrates a rich and vibrant heritage of creativity, artistry, and design, showcasing jewelry created by past and contemporary master American Indian artists. The jewelry, beadwork, quillwork, and silver pieces created by them are recognized around the world as a distinctly American art form.

Draper Museum Raptor Experience

Summer schedule: daily appearances at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Full program at 11:30 a.m.
Call 307-578-4111 for specific information and off-season schedule.



This program of the Draper Natural History Museum enables visitors to get an up-close look at some of Wyoming's most-popular birds of prey including: Teasdale, a great-horned owl; Isham, a red-tailed hawk; Hayabusa, a peregrine falcon; Suli, a turkey vulture; Kateri, a golden eagle; and Salem, an American kestrel.

Plains Indian Museum Powwow

June 20 – 21, 2015



This annual competition showcases the dancing, music, and energy of Native artists from across the Northern Plains. The event includes two days of competition, as well as the opportunity for visitors to watch talented dancers and drum groups. Attendees can also browse the booths of more than 40 Native artists displaying food, clothing, and other crafts made by people of the Northern Plains.

Buffalo Bill Invitational Shootout

August 6 – 8, 2015



In honor of one of America's first "top guns," this annual event helps showcase the importance of the shooting sports as well as the history of firearms. Under the auspices of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West and the Cody Shooting Complex, the annual competition expects to attract 80 of the country's best marksmen who'll compete for titles of Top Gun, Top Discipline Shooter, and Top Team.

MUSEUM NOTES

Signature Items and Things to See:

- *William F. Cody's boyhood home*
- *Colt Model 1883 Gatling Gun*
- *Saddles, rifles, and costumes used by Annie Oakley and Buffalo Bill in their famous Wild West performances*
- *The reconstructed art studios of Frederic Remington and Alexander Phimister Proctor, and the studio cabin of Joseph Henry Sharp*
- *A sculpture garden featuring the works of western sculptors including Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, Michael Coleman, and T.D. Kelsey*
- *Draper Museum Raptor Experience*
- *An array of Plains Indian clothing, artifacts, and art work*

Interview Opportunities

Center curators, staff, and local historians are also available to members of the media seeking to add layers of colorful commentary, facts, and stories to their editorial coverage.

Jeremy Johnston, Curator, Buffalo Bill Museum; and Managing Editor, The Papers of William F. Cody

Dr. Charles R. Preston, Willis McDonald IV Senior Curator of Natural Science, Draper Natural History Museum

Rebecca West, Curator of Plains Indian Cultures, Plains Indian Museum

Karen McWhorter, Scarlett Curator of Western American Art, Whitney Western Art Museum

Ashley Hlebinksy, Curator, Cody Firearms Museum

Mary Robinson, Housel Director, McCracken Research Library

Press-Ready Images: Downloadable, high-resolution images of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West are available to media at:

<http://centerofthewest.org/about-us/pr-images/>

Center Leadership: Bruce B. Eldredge, Executive Director and CEO

Baron G. Collier II, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

The Center's Board of Trustees

Advisory boards comprised of scholars, collectors, and donors have been appointed for each content area and the library

Press Information: Marguerite House, 307-578-4137, margueriteh@centerofthewest.org