

Help Make History!

Museums are places to learn, play, and discover...and they also have another important job: to collect, save, and share history! FCMoD focuses on the history of Fort Collins and Northern Colorado, and we need your help by telling us *your* story of living through COVID-19. Learn more below!

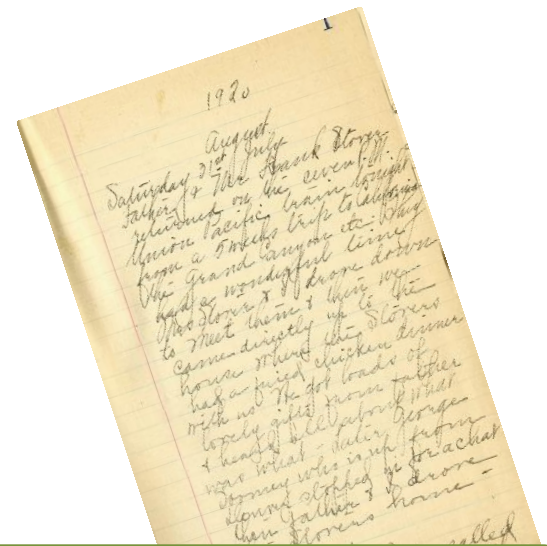
Why do museums collect, save, and share history?

So that we can learn from stories in the past! Where we came from, where we're going, what mistakes we've made and how to not make them again, and what we've done well so we can be inspired, celebrate, and use those stories to make this world a better place today!

What does FCMoD collect?

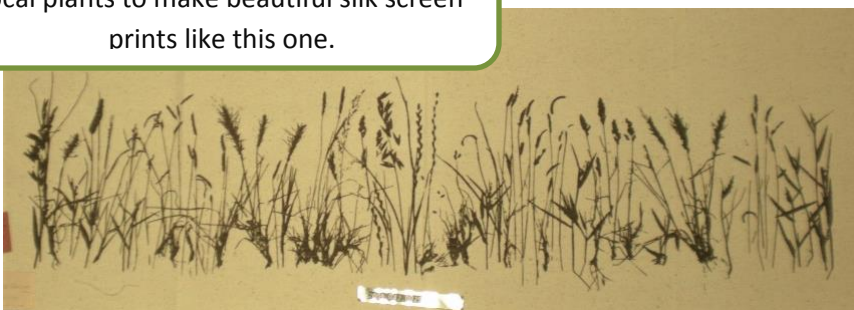
Things that help tell the story of Fort Collins, like pictures, maps, letters, books, and objects—from hats to tools to furniture and much more! All of these are **artifacts** and **primary sources**. An artifact is an object from the past and a primary source is a first-hand account of something that happened in the past. Both are used to help understand the history of our community.

Here are some of our favorites in the collection at FCMoD!



Diaries written by Mary Hottel tells us about her life in Fort Collins, 100 years ago!

In the 1970s Dorothy Udall gathered local plants to make beautiful silk screen prints like this one.



How do museums collect and preserve artifacts?

With the help of some pretty cool people who work with Collections and Archives! Let's meet two people who do this work at FCMoD:



Hi, my name is Lesley Struc and I am the Archivist here at FCMoD. **An archivist brings the past to the present** by collecting and saving things like photos, letters, diaries, books, maps, and newspapers. I love keeping these things organized and available so that everyone can visit the Archive or our website to discover the history of Fort Collins!

One of my favorite stories about local history is our connection to Disneyland in California. A man named Harper Goff grew up in Fort Collins and later worked for the Disney company. In the 1950s he helped design the look of Main Street in Disneyland and used his happy memories of Fort Collins as inspiration! Here is a view of Walnut Street in Fort Collins from 1891...I think I can see a little Disneyland in there!





“Hi there! My name is Linda and I am the **Curator of Collections** here at FCMoD. I **take care of the artifacts** –which can be any of the objects we use to live our lives, while collecting as much information as possible about them. I make sure the rooms where we keep artifacts have the right temperature and light and are safe from pests that could harm them. My favorite moments with artifacts happen when people recognize something familiar in them: like when seeing a toy reminds them of how it felt to be younger,

or a fingerprint on an ancient piece of pottery reminds them what it feels like to squish clay in their hands.

(Visitors enjoy showing off their aprons from home while visiting an exhibit about historic aprons.)



Where do these artifacts come from?

People like **YOU!**

People make history, not museums! Every single day you're making history and museums don't just collect artifacts from long ago! We're always collecting because someday what you're doing right now will be history.

And right now, FCMoD **needs your help**. We want to **collect and save your story about living through COVID-19**. Yes, **YOU!** No matter how old you are or who you are we want your story. . . because together our individual stories make history!

Read below to see how you can get involved!

What Can You Do? . . . Share Your Story!

We want you to tell us your story! Visit www.fcmod.org/making-history to submit written, video, and photo files about your experience living during COVID-19. Use the ideas and questions below to help you get started.

We want people of all ages to complete it! That means you kids, teens, grown-ups, and families together. Remember your story is so important! You don't have to be "famous" to be a very important part of history!

Not ready to share your story yet? That's ok! Use the ideas below to record it anyway. When you're ready, we'd love it if you share your story with us through our website. We want to help you save your story for your friends and family who will wonder about it later.

Get Started!

Not sure how to tell your story? Here are some ideas:

- Write a **letter** to your future self. What do you want to remember?
- Take a **video** of yourself telling the story of your quarantine.
- **Interview** your friends and family (see our "Story Detectives" Discovery At Home to get started!)
- Become a **photojournalist** for a day/week. Write captions for all your photos and be sure to note where you took it and the names of anyone in the photo!
- Create a **graphic novel** or **art** about living in COVID-19.
- Make a **scrapbook**! Include mask selfies, pictures of school at home, sidewalk chalk, baked goods, other parts of your experience! Be sure to include when, where, and who info about the photos.

You can share all of these with us through our website portal!

Think about these questions:

- If you were a kid learning about COVID-19 in 50 or 100 or 200 years what would you want them to know about your life? What would you want to tell them?
- What do you want to remember about this time?
- How are you feeling? What scares you? What makes you happy? What makes you sad?
- What are you doing? What new things have you created or done to stay entertained?
- What has been the hardest thing for you about stay-at-home and COVID-19?
- What has changed in your life that is different from before?
- How do you feel about wearing a mask?
- How do you feel about doing school or work at home?
- How do you feel about not seeing friends or family?
- What has been the best thing about stay-at-home? What is the most fun thing you've done?
- What is making you smile even when life is hard?