

2021

ANNUAL SEMINAR
ON MUNICIPAL LAW



Pueblo's *Mostly* Smooth Transition from a Council-Manager to a Mayor-Council Form of Government



2020 Census

	City of Pueblo	Colorado
Population	111,876	5,773,714
% Increase from 2010	4.7	14.8
Hispanic %	49.8	21.3
White alone %	45.2	70.3
African American %	2.5	4.0
Asian %	1.0	3.3
Native American %	1.5	1.1
Poverty Rate %	23.5	11.5
Current Rate of Unemployment %	7.9	6.2

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



**6,545
Students**



**4,109
Students**

November 5, 2019 Election:
Voters approve a \$218 million bond issue to
construct and upgrade 13 school buildings.



**The 1992-2026 .5% Sales and Use Tax
Capital Improvement Projects Fund**



The Historic River Project (HARP)



The Union Avenue Historic District



The Sangre de Cristo Arts & Conference Center



**Regional Tourism Act –
Home of the Heroes Project**

“What is it . . . something in the water out there in Pueblo?
All you guys turn out to be heroes!”

- President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 when presenting the Medal of Honor to Pueblo native Raymond G. “Jerry” Murphy



**Regional Tourism Act –
Professional Bull Riders University**



The Pueblo Zoo



Lake Pueblo State Park and Campground



City Ice Arena

5 MUSEUMS



Rosemount Museum



Buell Children's Museum



El Pueblo History Museum



Weisbrod Aircraft Museum



Steelworkers' Museum

2 COMMUNITY THEATRE GROUPS



Damon Runyon Repertory Theatre



The Impossible Players

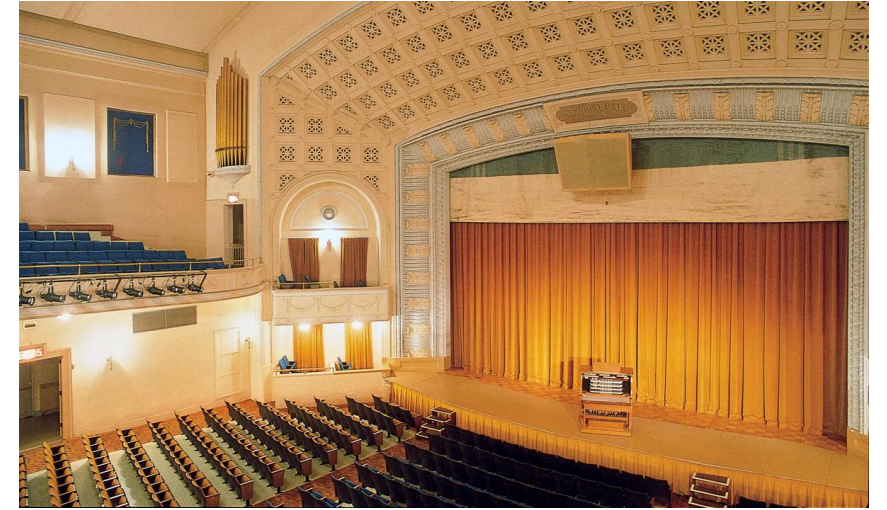
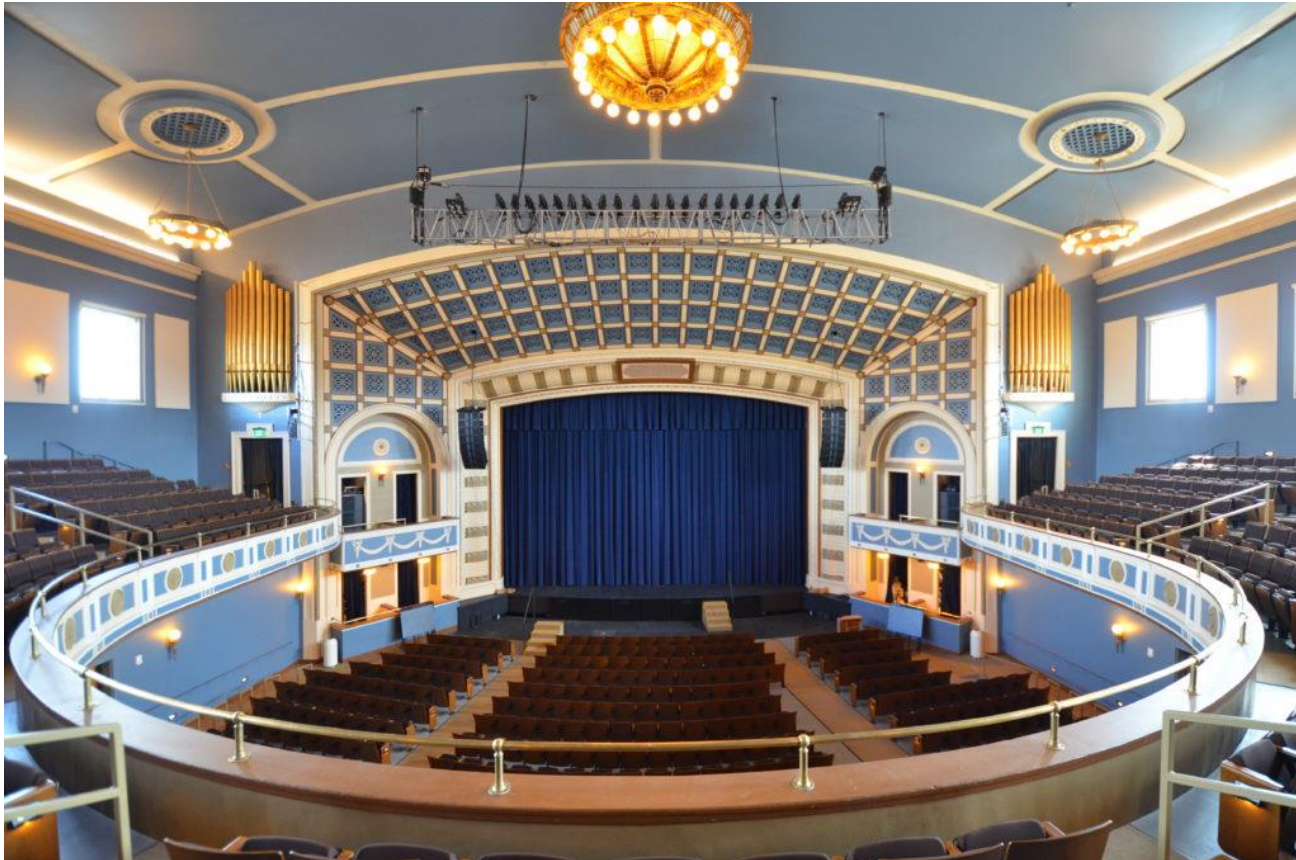
ENTERTAINMENT VENUES



**Colorado State Fair –
Southwest Motors Event Center**



ENTERTAINMENT VENUES

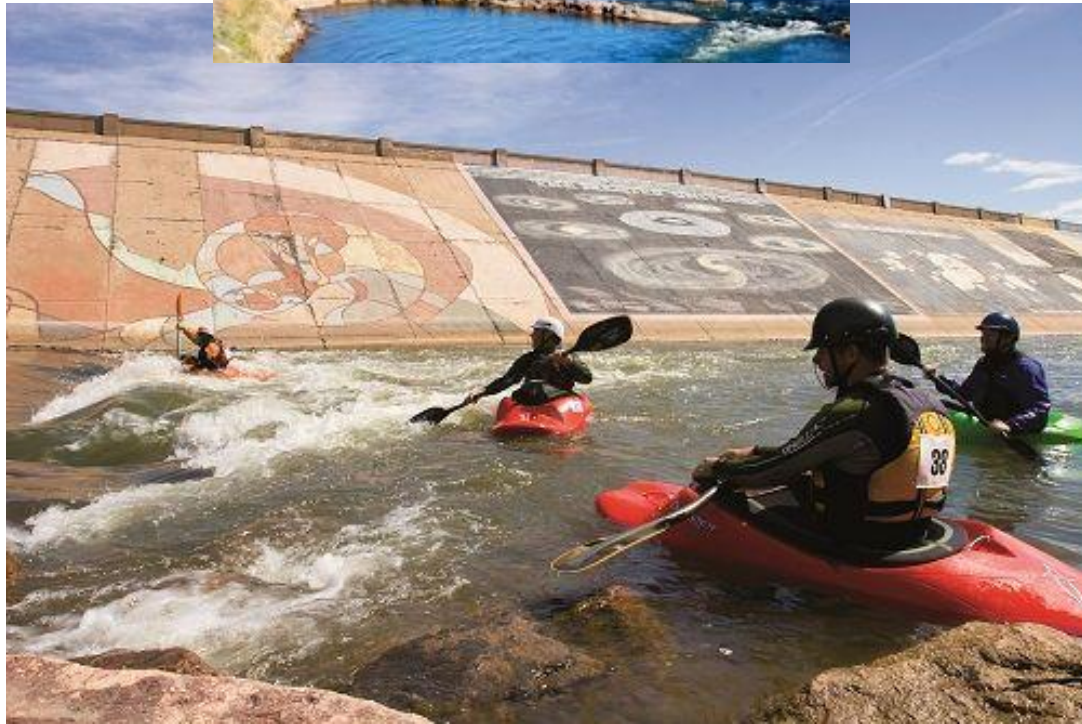




The Pueblo Symphony



Pueblo City-County Library District



The Arkansas River Kayak Course



The George R. Williams Historic Carousel



 **EVRAZ** | NORTH AMERICA

PUEBLO EVEN HAS A SUBURB!

According to the 2020 Census, the Pueblo West Metropolitan District has a population of 33,086.



PUEBLO WEST
Colorado

RECENT CONTROVERSIES



May 5, 2020
Municipalization Election



The Columbus Statue



FROM COUNCIL-MANAGER TO MAYOR-COUNCIL

November 3, 2009 Election

Strong Mayor (Question 300)		Weak Mayor (Question 2A)
For: 32%		For: 20%
Against: 68%		Against: 80%

November 7, 2017 Election

Strong Mayor (Question 2A)
For: 50.5%
Against: 49.5%

A BUMP IN THE ROAD...

Who wants to be a lame duck City Manager?

ANOTHER BUMP IN THE ROAD...

Managers leaving for greener pastures

- Public Works Director – February, 2018
- Deputy City Manager – September, 2018

MAYORAL ELECTION

November 6, 2018

Candidate	Votes	% of Vote
Nick Gradisar	5,459	13.24
Steve Nawrocki	5,026	12.19
Lori Winner	4,955	12.02
Christopher Nicoll	4,951	12.01
Dennis E. Flores	3,347	8.12
Larry Atencio	3,022	7.33
Randy Thurston	2,672	6.48
Ted Lopez, Jr.	1,940	4.71
Gary Clark	1,575	3.82
Charlotte Perez	1,373	3.33
Jodi Voss	1,043	2.53
Tom Croshal	913	2.21
Janet Wilson	870	2.11
Larry Fancher	645	1.56
Z. Marie Martinez	620	1.50
Alex Lucero-Mugatu	602	1.46
Total	39,013*	100.00

*62.7 % of eligible voters

MAYORAL RUN-OFF ELECTION

January 22, 2019

Candidate	Votes	% of Vote
Nick Gradisar	13,347	58.0
Steve Nawrocki	9,648	42.0
Total	22,995*	100.0

*36.9 % of eligible voters

February 1, 2019
MAYORAL INAUGURATION DAY
ANOTHER BUMP IN THE ROAD...

Exodus of More Department Directors

- **Finance – February, 2019**
- **Stormwater – February, 2019**
- **Traffic Engineer – March, 2019**
- **Aviation – September, 2019**

ANOTHER BUMP IN THE ROAD...

Council's maladjustment to its new

- Council to Mayor ^{role} – “You can hire whoever you want to be your Chief of Staff provided we approve your selection.”
- Council issues an RFP for its own lawyer.

ONGOING BUMP IN THE ROAD...

The perpetual Mayoral campaign

SOME GOOD NEWS...