

**COLORADO**Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan**Water Project Summary**

Name of Applicant	Confluence Center of Colorado, Inc.
Name of Water Project	Confluence Center Atrium Exhibit
Grant Request Amount	\$83,100.00
Primary Category	\$83,100.00
<i>Engagement & Innovation Activities</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$85,000.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$85,000.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$310,200.00
<i>One Riverfront Foundation</i>	\$110,000.00
<i>EUREKA! McConnell Science Museum</i>	\$100,000.00
<i>RiversEdge West</i>	\$50,000.00
<i>Colorado National Monument Association (CNMA)</i>	\$20,200.00
<i>XCEL</i>	\$20,000.00
<i>Ute Water Conservancy District</i>	\$10,000.00
Total Project Cost	\$478,300.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Confluence Center of Colorado, Inc.
Mailing Address: 1400 N 7th St Grand Junction CO 81501

Organization Contact: Jenn Moore
Position/Title: EUREKA! Executive Director Email: grants@eurekasciencemuseum.org
Phone: 970-254-1626

Organization Contact - Alternate: Cara Kukuraitis
Position/Title: Director of Development Email: ckukuraitis@riversedgewest.org
Phone:

Grant Management Contact: Jenn Moore
Position/Title: EUREKA! Executive Director Email: grants@eurekasciencemuseum.org
Phone: 970-254-1626

Description of Grantee/Applicant

No description provided

Type of Eligible Entity

- ☐ Public (Government)
☐

- ☐ Public (District)
- ☐ Public (Municipality)
- ☐ Ditch Company
- ☐ Private Incorporated
- ☐ Private Individual, Partnership, or Sole Proprietor
- ☒ Non-governmental Organization
- ☐ Covered Entity
- ☐ Other

Category of Water Project

- ☐ Agricultural Projects
Developing communications materials that specifically work with and educate the agricultural community on headwater restoration, identifying the state of the science of this type of work to assist agricultural users among others.
- ☐ Conservation & Land Use Planning
Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning.
- ☒ Engagement & Innovation Activities
Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website.
- ☐ Watershed Restoration & Recreation
Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation.
- ☐ Water Storage & Supply
Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.

Location of Water Project

Latitude	39.061056
Longitude	108.571778
Lat Long Flag	Precise coordinates: Project coordinates are readily definable and precisely define the location of the project
Water Source	n/a
Basins	Colorado
Counties	Mesa
Districts	72-Lower Colorado River

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Education
Type of Water Project	Design & Construction
Scheduled Start Date - Design	2/2/2025
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	3/1/2025

Description

The Confluence Center of Colorado is requesting funding to support the design and installation of a permanent interpretive exhibit in the atrium of its new facility in Grand Junction, Colorado. This engaging exhibit will feature a large-scale timeline illustrating the importance of the Colorado River and key historical, cultural, and ecological events that have shaped the Colorado River Basin, from Indigenous land stewardship beginning in 700 CE to contemporary challenges and collaborative solutions like the CWP.

Designed to be accessible to all ages, including preschoolers attending the Center’s onsite STREAM (Science, Technology, Rivers, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Preschool, the exhibit will use interactive and visually compelling storytelling to foster water literacy and stewardship. The timeline will be physically anchored by large, wood-based cross sections simulating tree rings used in dendrochronology, helping visitors make connections between the Colorado River’s water science, history, and climate adaptation.

The exhibit will serve as a dynamic public education resource and a catalyst for local engagement by weaving together science education, community storytelling, and water conservation messaging. This installation directly supports the goals outlined in the Colorado Water Plan and CO-BIP’s Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) initiative by providing meaningful, place-based water education that reaches broad and diverse audiences in a high-traffic, permanent location.

Measurable Results	
	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
	Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
	Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
25,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
Coloradans impacted by the atrium exhibit will include visitors, nonprofit collaborators, community partners, preschoolers and their families, conference attendees, and visiting scientists.	

Water Project Justification
<p>The Confluence Center interpretive lobby is a community-facing water education project designed to advance both the Colorado Water Plan (CWP) and the Colorado Basin Implementation’s Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) objectives. The Confluence Center brings together mission-focused, nonpolitical organizations working at the confluence of water science, education, and stewardship to magnify our impact and ensure the longevity of our natural resources for future generations. By providing an educational space focused on riparian restoration, watershed health, and the “One Water” ethic, the lobby directly supports the CWP’s Engagement and Innovation objectives and basin-level outreach goals as well as the Confluence Center’s organizational mission.</p> <p>1. Alignment with the Colorado Water Plan</p> <p>Vision and Actions – Vibrant Communities (Chapter 6, pp. 178–191):</p> <p>The CWP underscores the importance of community spaces and programming that foster stewardship and connection to local water. The Confluence Center’s interpretive lobby will fulfill this by providing a welcoming, multilingual exhibit space where local residents and visitors can explore the natural and human history of Colorado River Basin. This exhibit will serve as a roadmap, guiding viewers through historical conservation practices that lead to and justify the modern implementation of the CWP and One Water ethic. Residents will</p>

leave the exhibit with a deeper understanding of their water footprint and a respect for modern water conservation practices, aligning with the stated need for Effective Engagement and Education in pursuit of Vibrant Communities in Colorado (Ch. 6, p. 181).

The construction of the Confluence Center's interpretive lobby assists with effective agency actions as outlined in Chapter 6, particularly secs. 1.4 (p. 185) and 1.6 (p. 187). A level of public outreach and education is needed to establish literacy around water conservation as the CWP is implemented. The Confluence Center is poised to assist in this critical educational role as the CWCB expands the One Water initiative.

Resilient Planning (Chapter 6, pp. 216–227):

This project advances inclusive, adaptive education on the history of the Colorado River Basin and helps build a culture of water stewardship, key actions identified under Tools for Action. The lobby supports CWP goals by embedding water literacy in a public-facing environment and modeling best practices in collaborative community outreach.

The Confluence Center's interpretive lobby will serve as a valuable component of the CWP education and outreach campaign (Ch. 6, sec. 4.3, p. 222). As educational content for the lobby is developed, the CWCB's toolbox of language and communication strategy will be invaluable in structuring the broader message of the exhibit. Critically, this message needs to match existing water conservation education and outreach efforts in place by the CWCB, and work toward the larger goal of encouraging the One Water ethic.

2. Support for Basin Education Action Plans (CO-BIP)

The interpretive lobby supports Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) goals by acting as a physical classroom and experiential learning hub. It will host self-guided and facilitated programming tied to water, land, and climate education, increasing awareness across age groups and communities. Its location at the confluence of two major rivers is ideal for advancing the Colorado River Basin Roundtable's education priorities, expanding watershed awareness and community engagement.

The fact-based content presented in the interpretive lobby directly supports objectives laid out by PEPO. Highly emphasized in this content is the scarcity of water resources and the direct impact of human action on how accessible or inaccessible water may be. Multiple entries on the interpretive timeline relate directly to governance of water in the Colorado River Basin in the last century, communicating to visitors that policy changes influence water availability directly. Infrastructure projects will also be highlighted, communicating the sensitivity of the Colorado River Basin's water cycle and the effects of manipulating that cycle with the ultimate goal being to increase public buy-in to the CWP and the One Water ethic.

3. Community Collaboration & Measurable Outcomes

The lobby will be developed in partnership with six Grand Valley nonprofits, reflecting CWP's emphasis on collaborative engagement. It offers a cost-effective and scalable platform through donor-leveraged construction and modular exhibit design, which will allow for rotating content and community curation. Program evaluation will include visitor tracking, participation in interpretive programs, and pre/post engagement surveys to measure changes in water knowledge, interest, and behavior. These data will inform future programming and demonstrate progress toward CWP and SWEAP water literacy goals.

Related Studies

A study by Linhui Hu, et al. (2024) used eye-tracking technology to survey museumgoers' attention to and retention of different styles of exhibit. Compared against object-only exhibits, higher rates of visitor attention and satisfaction were observed with object-photo exhibits like the exhibit planned for the Confluence Center Atrium.

Hu, Linhui & Shan, Qian & Chen, Lidan & Liao, Siyin & Li, Jinxiao & Ren, Guangpei. (2024). Survey on the Impact of Historical Museum Exhibition Forms on Visitors' Perceptions Based on Eye-Tracking. Buildings. 14. 3538. 10.3390/buildings14113538

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

n/a