



NEWS from the FOUNDATION



Reflections on the Process of Opening the Doors of Penrose House to the Public after a Long Year and a Half

By Mike Buth, Vice President of Facilities and Historic Properties

A significant feature of El Pomar's operation is the heritage properties that connect Colorado's communities to the legacy of Spencer and Julie Penrose. These include Penrose House, Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun and Penrose Heritage Museum. Each provides a distinct experience and opportunity to learn about and connect with the story of El Pomar's founders and their impact on our state.

Over the past 16 months El Pomar's Historic Properties, like the rest of the world, have experienced a variety of operational adjustments, protocols and even long closures to outside guests in an effort to ensure the utmost safety for our staff and stakeholders.

Throughout the 16 months we, like many of you, learned about social distancing, disinfecting, virtual meeting platforms, and came to express ourselves through the style of mask we donned. We were also reminded of the importance of being connected to people through face-to-face interaction. The Historic Properties' mission is to honor the legacy of Spencer and Julie Penrose by serving Colorado communities and we believe the best way to do that is by welcoming the community back to our beautiful spaces.

As safety guidelines have allowed for the possibility of opening facilities, El Pomar Foundation has re-opened Penrose House to conferences, meetings and small receptions for nonprofits and internal functions, while continuing to be cautious and vigilant. Penrose Heritage Museum and Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun are also welcoming visitors once again and are seeing near pre-pandemic levels.

Not only are we delighted to once again welcome guests to these treasured properties, we are pleased to share a new exhibit at Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun, and are celebrating both the 80th anniversary of Penrose Heritage Museum and Colorado Springs' 150th anniversary this year with new exhibits that will be complete in October.

We understand and respect that you may have varying levels of comfort as your communities re-establish connection. Rest assured that we are taking the utmost care to create a safe and welcoming environment at all of our Historic Properties as we once again pursue our mission of honoring our founders and serving Colorado by reengaging in activities that promote community connection.

When in Colorado Springs, we invite you to visit Penrose Heritage Museum and Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun, or if you are in need of conference space and qualify as a 501(c)(3) please reach out to us for availability at Penrose House. We are pleased to host you and appreciate the opportunity to serve Colorado communities.