

Gustafson Gallery/Historic Costume & Textiles Collection

Mission Statement

The mission of the Gustafson Gallery/historic costume and textiles collection reflects the greater mission of the College of Applied Human Sciences and of Colorado State University. The Gustafson Gallery/collection is open to those who strive for excellence in instruction, scholarship, and service "in fields of learning which address human development, education, technology, and the social and health related needs of society," as stated in the College of Applied Human Sciences Strategic Mission Statement and Goals, September, 1988. As a teaching and research facility the Gallery collection offers faculty, students, and visitors from outside the university, the opportunity to explore the aesthetic, social, cultural, and physical significance of textiles and dress in their historical settings. As a museum, it is our function to collect, document, preserve, and exhibit these artifacts. Of particular importance are the artifacts that identify the development and settlement of Colorado in all its ethnic diversity and uniqueness.

Instructors from various disciplines use and display artifacts from the collection to enrich the instructional experiences of students. Unlike most traditional museums, the Gustafson Gallery is a "hands-on" museum, where students have the special opportunity to examine artifacts under controlled conditions that preserve the integrity of the items. Faculty and students may assist with exhibits, lectures and workshops which provide additional teaching and learning opportunities.

In addition, the Gustafson Gallery collection enables scholars to conduct research related to such topics of special interest as textile conservation, history of black in apparel, Victorian crazy quilts, and territorial men's funerary dress in the mid 19th century. The results of these studies are disseminated through journal articles, workshops and advanced seminars. The availability of the collection for study and use is central to the scholarship mission of the university.

The Gustafson Gallery contributes to the service mission of the University by providing travelling trunk shows, public gallery exhibitions, talks, and workshops. Staff consultations, public lecture programs, symposia, workshops, and access to the collection further the collection's community outreach. The Friends of the Gustafson Gallery, an active community group, assist in many of the outreach programs and fund raising projects.

mission final
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