



Press Release

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**The Telecommunications History Group
Launches Exhibit, Funding Campaign**

The Telecommunications History Group is launching a campaign to ensure that its collection of thousands of irreplaceable, one-of-a-kind items will be preserved and accessible to the public.

The campaign will raise funds to design and install an exhibit that shows how telecommunications changes our lives and our world. The three-month exhibit, scheduled to open in May 2011, will be on the fifth-floor adjacent to the Western History Department at Denver Central Library, 10 W. 14th Ave. Parkway.

“We’re pleased to partner with the Western History Department to create this significant educational opportunity for our communities,” said Jack Shea, Telecommunications History Group president. “Today we take instant, reasonably priced global communication for granted. It took 150 years of innovative leadership to get us here. We’re eager to see what’s coming next, and we think understanding the past opens the door to creativity and future innovations.”

Shea said the organization’s board of directors and volunteers are seeking \$75,000 for the library exhibit. “We also are seeking contributions to our endowment fund and annual operating fund. These funds will provide a base for us to reach our goal as an ‘exhibitor extraordinaire’.

“Our Denver archives has thousands of photographs, documents, directories and other items. We also have displays of telephone sets, switchboards, and equipment. Because many of these assets are irreplaceable and one-of-a-kind, it’s essential to preserve them and keep them accessible,” Shea said.

He noted that “we serve educators and their students, historical researchers, attorneys, and businesses. We offer tours, and we think exhibits in large, accessible venues will engage more of the public. Who knows? The inventor of the next big innovation may be a 15-year-old viewing our exhibit,” Shea said.

The Denver archives and museum displays are in space provided by Qwest in a secure building at 1425 Champa St., Denver. The Telecommunications History Group also has a Seattle museum at 700 E. Marginal Way S that features working equipment displays and switching machines commonly used in the 20th Century before the advent of electronic equipment.