

Collaborative Stewardship of the Colorado Chautauqua

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PLACE MANAGEMENT AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

Purpose of the Guiding Principles

These guiding principles represent a shared statement about the nature of the Colorado Chautauqua and the manner in which its primary stewards (the City of Boulder and the Colorado Chautauqua Association) intend to collaborate in the planning and management of its future.

1 A Public Place

Chautauqua is a shared community resource and a public place. It is essential that it remain a place that is accessible, safe and welcoming to the general public.

2 A Historic Landmark

The Colorado Chautauqua is a recognized national and local historic landmark. Preservation of its historic character is of the utmost importance when making decisions about its future.

3 A Historic Mission

Chautauqua supports cultural, educational, social and recreational experiences that are integral to its historic character and function. Preservation and perpetuation of its historic mission and supporting operations are paramount to sustaining the spirit of Chautauqua.

4 A Balanced Approach

Chautauqua encompasses multiple ownerships and missions; the needs and interests of many must be balanced in a manner that protects the site and spirit of Chautauqua, in keeping with principles 1, 2 and 3. Management decisions about surrounding uses should be made with sensitivity to potential impacts on Chautauqua. At the same time, Chautauqua should be managed and preserved in a manner consistent with the community's sustainability goals and with sensitivity to impacts on surrounding residential neighborhoods.

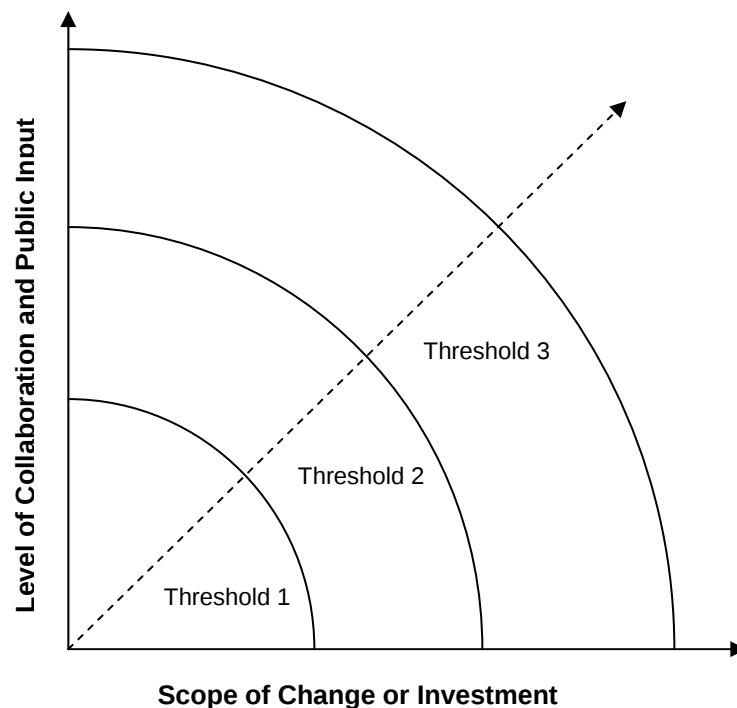
5 Collaborative Place Management

To achieve the balanced approach described in principle 4, the Chautauqua area (including the CCA leasehold and adjacent parks and open space) must be collaboratively managed. In particular, the following components of collaborative place management must be clearly defined and agreed to by the city and the CCA:

5a Roles and Responsibilities. The city and the CCA have the joint responsibility of preserving, perpetuating and improving the spirit and historic character of Chautauqua through collaborative stewardship and place management as well as the responsibility of managing specific public and private assets:

- ***The Colorado Chautauqua Association*** has the role of perpetuating the spirit and mission of the historic Chautauqua through production of cultural, educational, social and recreational experiences to benefit the Boulder community and visitors to the area. The CCA also has the responsibility, under its lease with the city, of managing and programming certain public assets and CCA's owned cottages, lodges and other facilities in a manner consistent with its historic mission and these guiding principles.
- ***The City of Boulder*** has multiple roles, including: 1) **owner** of the underlying land throughout Chautauqua, three key historic buildings and an historic structure in the leasehold, serving in this role as landlord to the CCA; 2) **manager** of the public infrastructure throughout Chautauqua and of the public assets and lands outside the leasehold, including a public park and open space; and 3) **regulator** in terms of city laws. The city has the responsibility of representing the interests and priorities of the community at-large; maintaining safe and efficient access to and within the site; and coordinating policy and action in a manner consistent with these guiding principles.

5b Thresholds for Collaborative Processes. Effective collaboration among the multiple core entities responsible for the Chautauqua area's management is critical. In general, the collaborative processes between CCA, the city and the public should proportionately increase as the scope of the proposed change increases as illustrated in the following graph:



The following is illustrative of “thresholds for collaboration” that will be refined, clarified and agreed to by the city and the CCA to guide future agreements and decision-making processes. It may or may not be the final recommendation to have three thresholds; that will be determined in the next steps.

- **Threshold 1: Minor Modifications.** These encompass site or facility changes that do not involve significant changes to the site or public building exteriors; are led and financed primarily by a single party; and are consistent with these guiding principles. Coordination and collaboration between the CCA and the city is essential, but successful precedents exist that can be clearly defined and followed to ensure transparency, mutual understanding and continued success. *Examples of this type of change include recent enhancements to site way finding and interpretive signage and current work to improve the bus pull-out and site circulation for improved pedestrian safety.*
- **Threshold 2: Significant Modifications Led by a Single Party.** These are changes to the site or facilities that significantly alter a city-owned building's exterior, involve new construction or demolition, significantly alter historic site patterns or designs, and/or represent a significant change in use. This level of change may be proposed by a single party but will require a higher degree of coordination and collaboration early in the process to address the concerns or needs of other parties and ensure consistency with these guiding principles. The resulting process may or may not lead to shared financial responsibility, but should ensure transparency, opportunities for public input and clarity and timeliness of decision making for the concerned party(ies). *Examples of this type of change include the potential addition of ADA-accessible bathrooms for the Chautauqua Auditorium and the concept of a new free-standing building.*
- **Threshold 3: Significant Modifications Requiring Multi-Party Investment.** These are changes similar in scope or impact to those in Threshold 2, but which would clearly benefit from joint investment in their design and implementation. Due to the shared investment, these may require an even higher degree of collaboration early and throughout the process. *An example of this type of change is the potential undergrounding of utilities around and through the National Historic Landmark area.*

5c Guiding Policy Documents. To support a collaborative approach to management of the Chautauqua area, key policy documents should be jointly developed and adopted by the core parties. These include, but are not limited to, the Chautauqua Collaborative Stewardship Framework (which should be revised and finalized consistent with these guiding principles) and the Chautauqua Design Guidelines.

5d Public Information and Input. Because the management of Chautauqua is a shared responsibility across multiple entities, it can be difficult for the public to find complete and accurate information regarding planning and management-related issues for the area. A shared approach to providing public information and opportunities for public input shall be developed and implemented to support these principles' goals for collaborative stewardship in the public interest.

6 A Cautious Approach to Change

While it is recognized that changes within and around Chautauqua will occur over time, decisions over these matters must be thoughtfully and cautiously considered, and

collaboratively managed in accordance with these guiding principles to ensure the preservation of Chautauqua's historic character and unique sense of place.

7 Shared Financial Responsibility

Because the Chautauqua area is a shared resource with community-wide as well as interest-specific benefit, investments in its care and upkeep should be shared in accordance with the benefit provided to each interest or user group as well as the community at-large. This does not remove the possibility of significant changes being funded by a single party; however, when there are clear benefits to multiple entities, joint funding should be considered.

Definitions

Enhancement: to make greater, as in value, beauty, or effectiveness; augment; provide with improved, advanced, or sophisticated features. In the context of historic preservation, "enhancement" is usually used to refer to the repair, rehabilitation, restoration and, in some cases, the re-creation of historically documented features.

Historic character: those aspects of an historic property or historic district that accurately convey a sense of its past. The National Register defines seven aspects of integrity that are important components of historic character: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. National Historic Landmarks typically possess all of these aspects of historic character/integrity.

Historic preservation: an endeavor that seeks to preserve, conserve and protect buildings, objects, landscapes or other artifacts of historic, architectural or environmental significance.

Leasehold: the property managed by the Colorado Chautauqua Association under a lease agreement with the City of Boulder as shown in *Figure 1*. The city-owned property leased by the CCA includes all the land and three buildings including the Auditorium, Dining Hall, and Academic Hall.

Manage: to have oversight and responsibility for the on-going affairs and/or the upkeep of a site, property, organization or business.

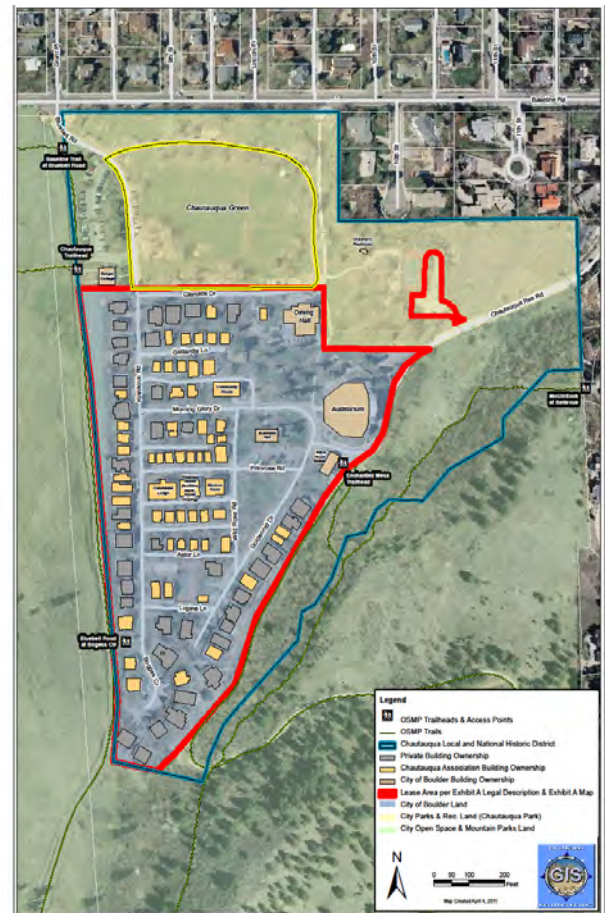


Figure 1: CCA Leasehold (outlined in red)

National Historic Landmark: a nationally significant historic place designated by the Secretary of the Interior because it possesses exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States.

Place management: the process of preserving or enhancing an area in a manner that maintains its integrity as a “place” with a unique character and function. This is practiced through programs to enhance a location or to maintain an already attained desired standard of operation. Place management can be undertaken by private, public or voluntary organizations or a mixture of each. Despite the wide variety of place management initiatives, the underlying common factor is usually to best meet the needs of multiple users and interests (e.g., residents, visitors, and owners) in a manner consistent with the nature of the place.

Protect and preserve: broadly speaking, protecting and preserving is the process of determining and implementing appropriate actions to minimize change to identified historic properties or districts that would adversely affect their historic character.

Stewardship: the ethical overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving.