CWAM Greeley 2025

By Michael Thomas

My name is Michael Thomas, and I am honored to step into my new role as curator at the Broomfield Veterans Museum. Recently, I had the incredible opportunity to attend a symposium through a scholarship that allowed me to explore the many valuable offerings of this professional association. One of the most impactful sessions I attended focused on deaccessioning and disposal, which provided thoughtful insights into the importance of staying true to a museum's mission when making difficult decisions. I also found the presentation by David Fasman particularly engaging, as he shared his work with World War II-era items from Germany. This resonated with me, as our museum was recently offered a morally complex artifact from the same period, sparking an important ethical discussion among our team.

In addition to the educational sessions, I was able to connect with others in the field and draw inspiration from different museum spaces. History Colorado's session on network affiliates was especially helpful, and I appreciated the chance to follow up with a visit to their museum for a deeper dive. The LINC library in Greeley stood out with its interactive floor designed specifically for children, sparking ideas I hope to adapt for our own museum. Above all, the highlight of the symposium was getting to meet so many knowledgeable and passionate peers. Sharing meals and conversations with fellow professionals made the experience both enriching and memorable.