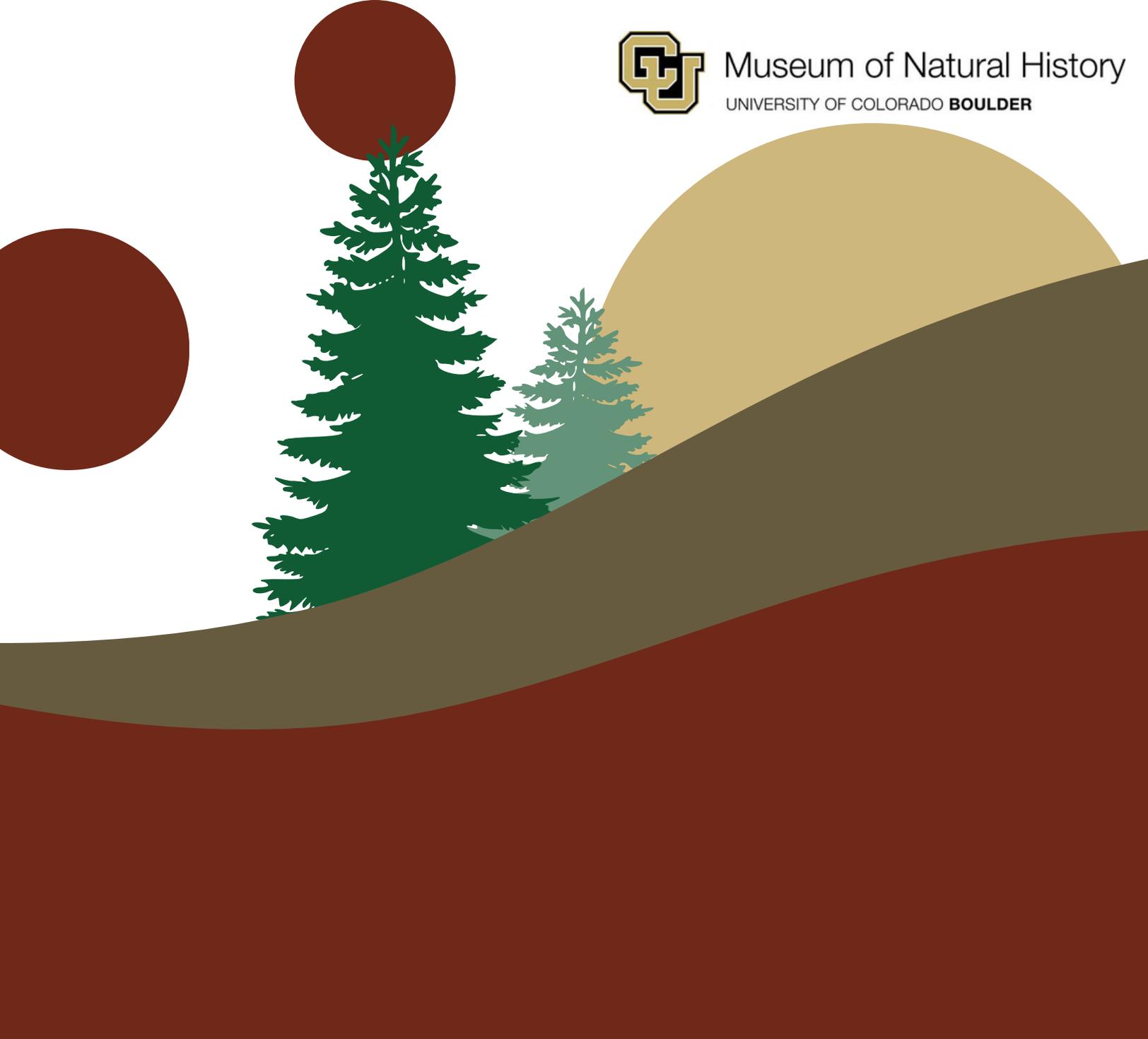




Museum of Natural History  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**



# **A SOCIAL STORY FOR VISITING THE CU MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY**

# Before My Visit

I can prepare by:

- ▶ Bringing water, snacks, sunglasses, and any fidgets, headphones, or other comfort tools
- ▶ Reserving a sensory backpack to check out for free during my visit. It has a textured seat, weighted lap pad, noise-canceling headphones, and lots of fidgets.
- ▶ Planning to visit the Discovery Corner if I'm 7 or younger on the lower level for fidgets to use during my visit, and places to get sensory feedback like a bean bag chair, wobble stool, and stairs to climb.
- ▶ Calling ahead to ask about peak hours/quiet times

Other information I should know:

- ▶ There are snacks for purchase at the front desk.
- ▶ There are accessible bathrooms with changing pads in all restrooms. Food can be eaten in the BioLounge.

## **CU Museum of Natural History**

1030 Broadway St, UCB 218

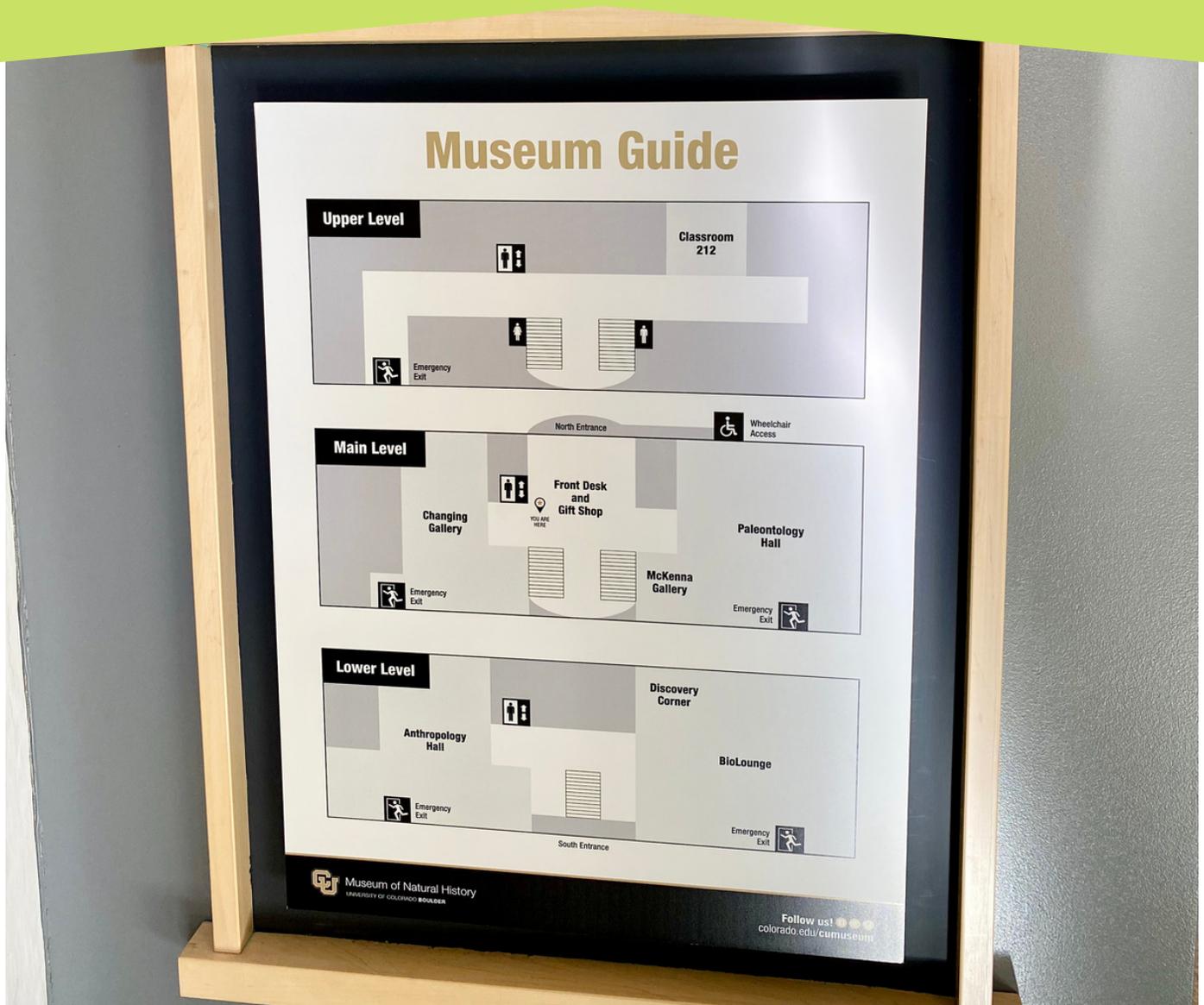
Boulder, CO 80309

Front Desk: (303) 492-6892

Open Hours:

9-5 M-Fri, 9-4 Sat, 10-4 Sun

# Before My Visit



I can plan for my needs. **Bathrooms** are on the upper level. **Drinking fountains** are on the lower and upper levels. I can **eat food** on the lower level in the BioLounge. There are spots to rest and **elevators** on each floor.

# Before My Visit



There is a large construction fence around the Museum. I can still enter from the front or back. I may see or hear construction trucks. If I need a ramp, I can walk around the right side of the building.

# I am going to the CU Museum of Natural History!



This is the front entrance. The building is **red brick** to match the rest of the buildings on campus. The front entrance has **4 steps down**.



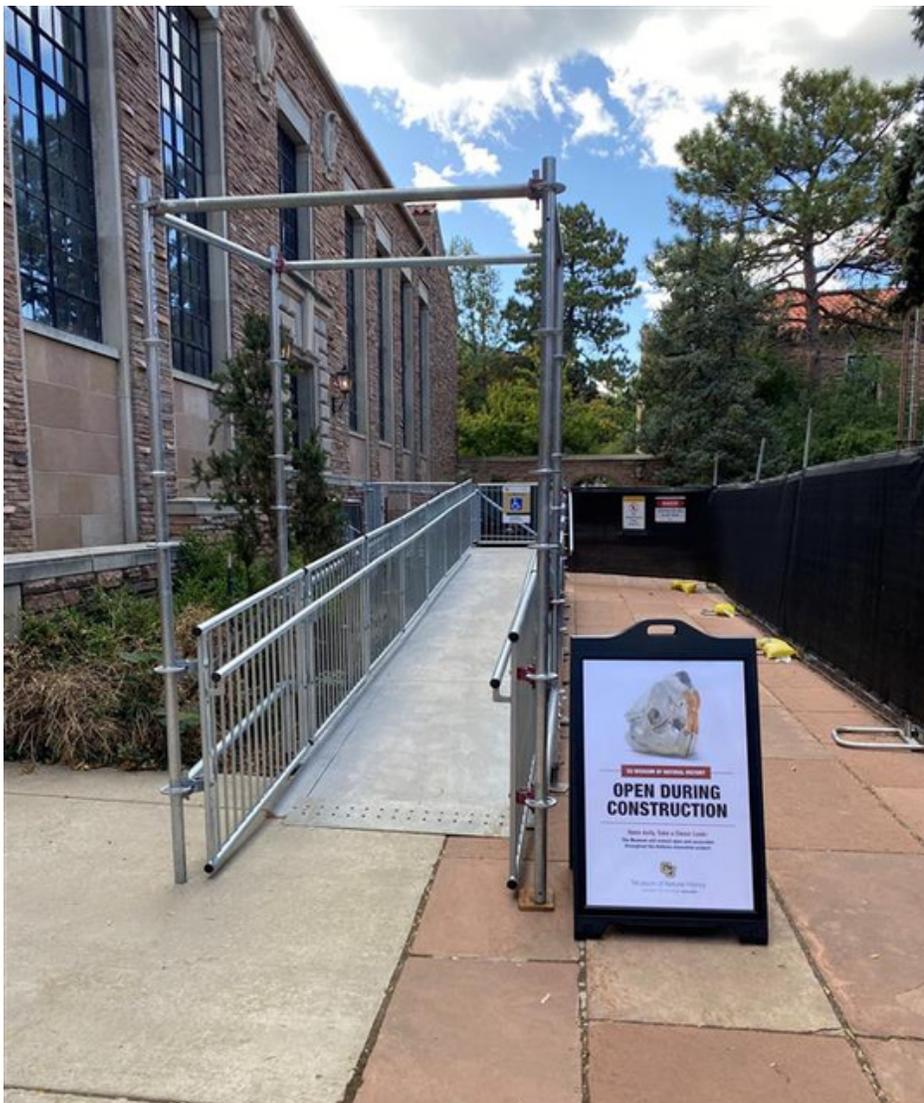
If I need a ramp to enter, I will turn to the right and go to the back of the building.

This is the ramp. I can go up **this ramp** to find the back entrance.



This is the side gate. I can go through **this gate** to find the back entrance.

This is **the back** of the CU Museum of Natural History.



This is what **the ramp** looks like to enter the museum.



The arrow in the picture points to a button that will make the doors open automatically.

If I enter from **the front** of the building,  
I can **make a choice** to go upstairs or  
downstairs first.



Upstairs are fossil and tree galleries.  
Downstairs are galleries about people, a  
play space, and the BioLounge. I can take  
a break, or eat a snack in the BioLounge.

In this book, we will go **upstairs** first. This is also where I will start if I enter through the back.

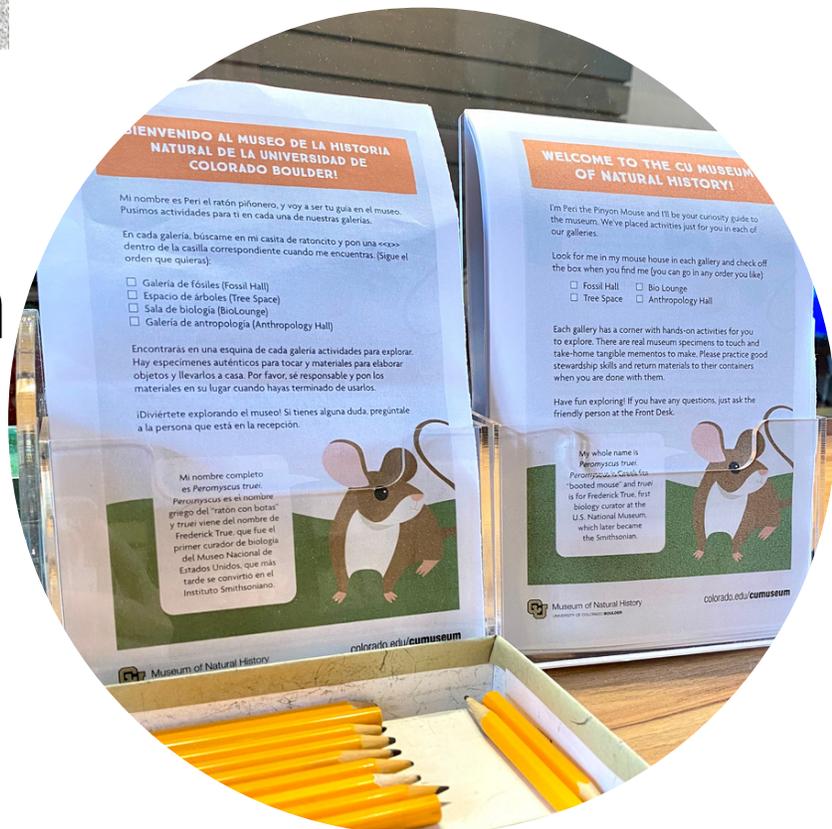


There is a desk with a friendly worker. They will say hello. I can ask them for help if I need anything. They will be wearing a name tag. There are snacks, drinks and fun things to buy in this area.



It is always **free** to come to the CU Museum of Natural History. It's fun to donate money through this extinct **American Lion skull**, but I do not have to!

I can pick up a welcome guide with Peri, the piñon mouse. I can find Peri hiding in each gallery!



This backpack has lots of tools that I can use. I can ask at the front desk to use it.

It has fidgets, a wiggle seat, headphones, and a weighted lap pad. These things can help me feel calm if the museum is too loud or overwhelming!



Let's look at **fossils** first!



There are so many fossils to see! I will look all around me to see all the fossils.

This Brontothere looks big and bold. It actually only ate plants!



Fossils are really **old**. The museum needs my help to keep them **safe**.



I will not bring food or drink into this room.

I will not touch the fossils.



If I have a camera, I will not use flash to take pictures.



These signs can help me **remember the rules**.

There are **hidden doors** in each gallery, including the fossil gallery! I can look for the doors. What will I find if I **open** it?



It's Peri!

Peri has **fun facts** to share behind each door.



There are some things **I can touch!** They will have a sign like this.



**I can touch** everything in this photo, including part of a dinosaur back bone, a dinosaur leg bone, fossil clams, and footprints on the wall.

I can touch the tracks and footprints on the dinosaur highway!



The tracks on the left are casts of tracks collected in 1902. That's over 100 years ago! The paleontologist collected five, but three are missing!

This television might be too loud. I can ask the worker at the front desk to turn off the sound if I don't like it, and that's okay!



When I leave the fossil gallery, I will be at the front desk again. These stairs lead up to the bathrooms and a drinking fountain.



I can also use  
the elevator  
to get to the  
bathrooms





I can look at these up-close pictures at the top of the stairs on the 2nd floor. The bathrooms are on both sides of the stairs.

When I am done at the bathrooms, I can

come back downstairs to the gallery across from fossils. It is called **Tree Space**.



The entrance looks like a hall of trees.

There are a lot of activities in this gallery. There is another mouse door to find. I can **create** a puppet, or puppet show, **read** a book, **solve** a puzzle, or **do** activities about tree rings, fossil leaves, or even **smell** some tree scents!

Tree  
Rings,  
Fossil  
Leaves,  
Tree  
Scents



Puppet  
Theater

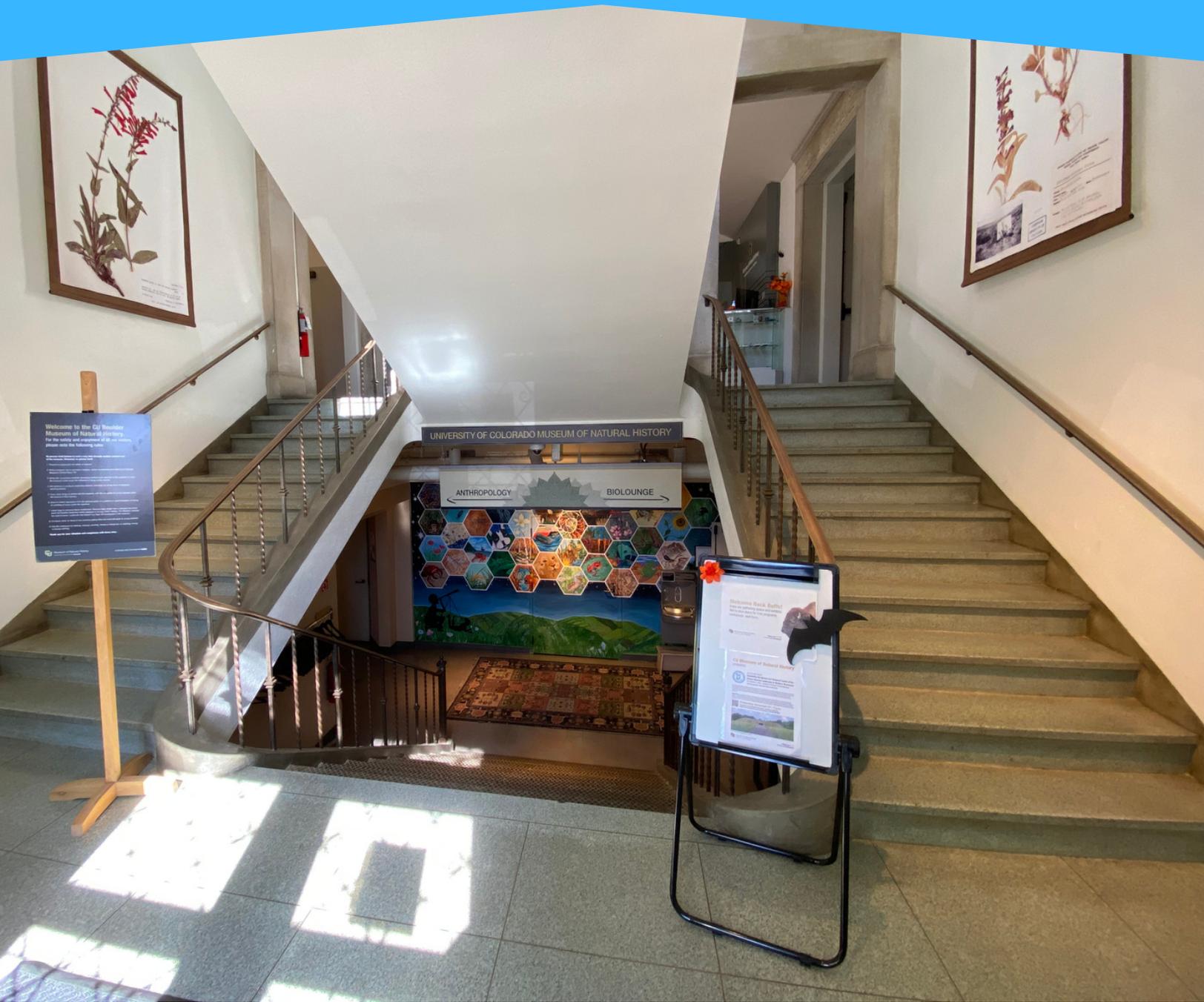
Create-a-puppet,  
books, and puzzles

This is an area to **take a break** in Tree Space, **read** a book, **look** at the cart of pressed plants, or **watch** a video about trees.



This video only plays if someone presses play on the iPad. If it's too loud, I can come back later.

When I am done, it's time to head downstairs. **I can choose** to go left and visit a gallery about people or right and visit the BioLounge.



In this book, we will visit the people gallery first. It is called **"Anthropology."**

This gallery has exhibits about **people** and the **animals** that live with people. There is a saddle, stone tools, a horse skull and clay jars to look at. I will not bring food or drink here.



In this gallery, I can **see stone tools**.  
This is called the Mahaffy Cache.



These tools were found right here in Boulder, in the yard of a man named Pat Mahaffy. He was digging a pond for his yard and found them. They are more than **10,000 years old!**

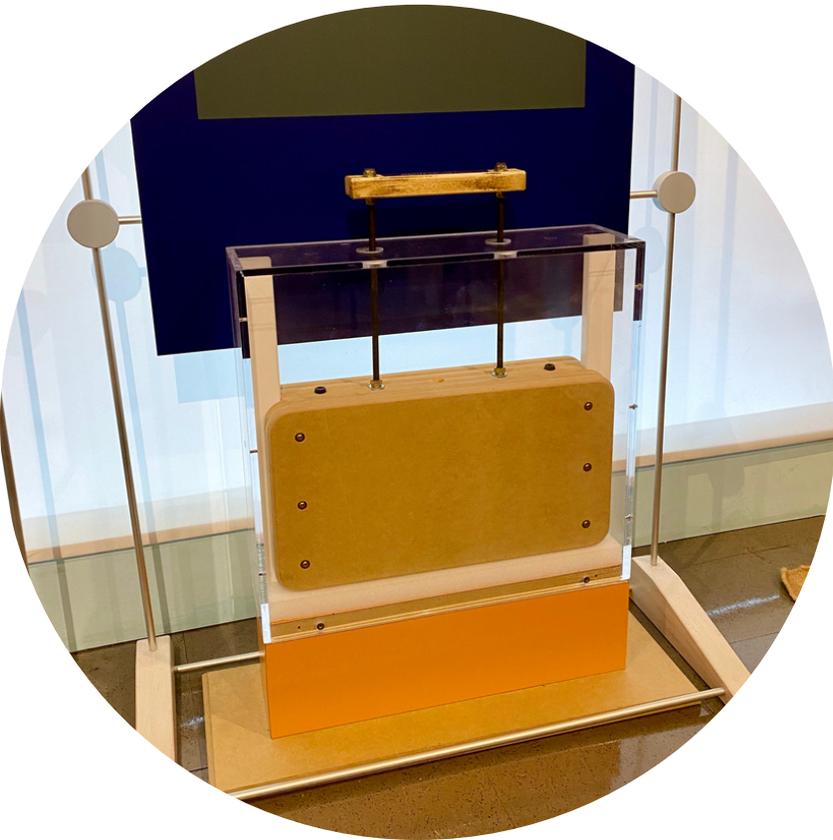


These are **3D models** of the stone tools. That means they are exactly the same shape,

but made of a different material. **I can touch** all of these things.



**I can lift** this bar to feel how heavy the stone tools are!





There are **many activities** in this corner! I can sort materials, color a bead pattern, read a book, and tie a horse bridle. This is also a good spot to **take a break**.

This exhibit shows tools from long ago and today.



There might be a **video** in the corner connected to an iPad. If it is too loud, I can come back when it's over or ask at the front desk to lower the volume.

When I am ready to leave these galleries, it is time to visit  
**the BioLounge!**



I can **get a drink** or fill my water bottle here, on my way to the BioLounge.

This is the **BioLounge**.



I can **take a break** and **eat a snack** in here. There is so much to see! I can look closely.



This is the Discovery Corner. I enter through the gate. There are a lot of activities here.



I can move my whole body by climbing up the treehouse stairs, or find a quiet and dark space to rest under the treehouse.

There are puzzles, books, and activities.



I can create a scene using magnets, or dig up fossils to sort like a paleontologist. I will keep the sand in the sand area. I can look closely at the light table. I will put things back where I found them when I am done.



If I am having a hard time focusing, I can try putting the weighted lap pad over my lap while I work! If I need to wiggle while I'm working, I'll choose one of the wobble stools. There are also so many fidgets to keep my hands busy while my brain is learning! It's ok to keep them with me during my visit, but I will return them to the basket before I leave for the day.

When I am ready to go, I can take the stairs or elevator back to the main level.



I had a lot of fun at the  
**CU Museum of Natural History!**  
I can come back another time!



This Social Story was created by Summer King as part of the CU Museum of Natural History's Museum and Field Studies Graduate Program in 2023. Summer is a neurodivergent researcher studying accessibility in museums.