



Historic Denver, Inc.

2019 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

CANDIDATE NAME: Kendra Black, District 4

1. Do you have a personal connection with historic preservation?

As a Denver native and historian, I value Denver's past and the structures that recall and represent it. I am a member and supporter of Historic Denver and History Colorado. I am on the board of the Governor's Residence Preservation Fund and former director and former board chairman of National History Day in Colorado. As a council member, I'm proud to have personally facilitated the landmarking of a home in the Wellshire neighborhood. The Wellshire Golf Course club is another historic building that I would like to see landmarked.

Some of my favorite historic places include the Governor's Residence, the Molly Brown House (Margaret and JJ are especially fun to visit with), the Paramount Theater where I've been to many shows over the years; and - as a former employee of CU Denver - I love the 9th Street Historic Park for its beauty, its peacefulness and its rich history

2. What is your favorite example in Denver (or in your district) where historic preservation, economic redevelopment and strategic reinvestment were successfully combined to create something new?

Larimer Square, LoDo and Denver Union Station are three great examples of preservation of our historic buildings creating economic success. I applaud Dana Crawford's vision and that of everyone who reinvigorated these special places and revitalized lower downtown. Together, this vision and thoughtful development can generate economic success in other parts of Denver.

- 3. Neighborhoods across Denver are facing intense development pressure, and Denver's population is expected to increase in the decades to come. What specific ideas do you have to balance new infill with our historic built environment?**

Every neighborhood and every opportunity are unique. I am in favor of preserving neighborhood character, but there are often situations when this is not possible. I support compromise, collaboration and balanced solutions. The Krisana Park overlay is an example of a great compromise that preserves a historic neighborhood, but also allow homeowners flexibility with their property. I'd like to see more creativity with overlays that will preserve neighborhood character. As a city we need to create more neighborhood plans NOW, not in decades, as we are losing neighborhood character every day in parts of my district and throughout the city.

- 4. Identify the most critical historic preservation challenge/opportunity in your district. At-Large and Mayoral candidates: you can pick anywhere in the city.**

Council District 4 is home to many wonderful neighborhoods and extraordinary parks. As a southeast Denver native, I appreciate the unique character of each and every one of our neighborhoods. Because most of District 4 was developed in the 1950s – 1980s, the number of properties appropriate for historic preservation are relatively few compared to other Council districts. We do have exceptional neighborhoods that I work to preserve. My district has only two landmarked structures: the Bethesda Chapel and the Wellshire Cottage. Other opportunities include the Wellshire club house, the U-Hills Plaza neon sign, and a handful of exquisite midcentury modern homes designed by William Muchow. I am currently talking to the Muchow owners about landmarking. Some are interested! Stay tuned.

- 5. Please finish this sentence: "*I believe historic preservation in Denver can be strengthened by....*"**

I believe historic preservation in Denver can be strengthened by engaging with residents who are unhappy with recent development and ugly architecture, and those people who participated in the Denveright process. I think people's attitudes have changed since 2015. They're more aware of what's happening to our city. Now is the time to educate and engage. Perhaps we could collaborate and hold joint informational meetings with Historic Denver in every council district to explain what's possible, what the various tools are, and why preservation is important. An effort like this could motivate community members to engage with their neighbors and work together.

I do believe that non-owner initiated landmarking should have a higher standard than when an owner initiates a landmarking for their own property.

6. **Extra & Optional:** We think historic preservation is most authentic as a personal and visual experience. ***Show us in 1 or 2 images what historic preservation means to you.***

Historic preservation means....

**Preserving this structure and its history, and sharing that story with future generations,
while ensuring history is preserved, not replaced...**



View Looking east at the Wellshire Cottage from South University Avenue, c. 1935

Courtesy of Judith Yeager Airheart, personal collection



A "slot" development on 19th Avenue in West Colfax. (Kevin J. Beatty/Denverite)