



Historic Denver, Inc.

2019 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

CANDIDATE NAME: Erik Penn

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

I believe the adage that we must learn from our history or be doomed to repeat it. Architecture changes over time and what is in vogue is then, now, or in the future, will fade unless we preserve these structural memories. I don't know if I would say I have a personal connection with historic preservation, but I do strongly feel that we have an obligation to protect 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?

The airport tower in Stapleton and the Stanley Marketplace are examples of historic preservation that saved a buildings unique shape and presence but allowed for a new generation to engage in a space. Reusing buildings must be a top priority as we tackle economic revitalization to keep costs down, preserve the environment, and tell a story of where they city has been. Plus the new shopping and dining experiences provided by both are attractive, family friendly, and fun.

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?

Denver has a history of attempting to re-write its landscape. From viaducts to parking lots, historic parks to industrial development, Denver has taken large overarching stances on development that have left communities and individuals behind, especially at times with codes and zoning. I believe in renovation as the first remedy to address

development desires and with the right incentive we can keep neighborhood character and create economic revitalization.

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

Accessory dwelling units, or ADUs, are a hot-button topic in my district. The idea of increasing density through smaller physical disruption, generating additional income, and raising property values weighs against the idea of monstrous developments seen around town popping up in people's backyards and being out of context. However, carriage homes and granny flats have a history in Denver and we can bring them back, create density to alleviate our housing shortage and advocate for more transit through development without demolition.

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

Educating our next generation on the benefits and beauty of Denver's architectural past and guiding them towards preservation as a means of lowering costs, protecting the environment, and keeping history alive.

6. Extra & Optional: We think historic preservation is most authentic as a personal and visual experience. Show us in 1 or 2 images (no more than 2, please) what historic preservation means to you.