



**Historic Denver, Inc.**

**2019 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire**

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**CANDIDATE NAME: Amanda Sandoval, District 1**

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

Yes, while working for CM Espinoza three individual landmark designations came before City Council, one of them the Lamborn house at 5115 W. 29th Ave, this particular structure had a significant impact on me. I was the big house on the hill growing up, and I knew that it was significant for Northwest Denver. Not only it's history but the structure was unique, it was molded after a Denver Square but the front door was not front and center as one would see on a traditional Denver Square, it was on the corner, it's windows were placed in a very unique fashion. It told a story about the architect and its builders. I vividly remember sitting in the Council office that evening during the public hearing and when the final votes were cast to denying the Historic Landmark, I sobbed. I cried because I knew at that very moment the neighborhood I loved and have lived in my entire life was going vulnerable and property rights were going to outweigh the rich history of Denver and those who have come before us. I own two homes, one built in 1942 and the other built in 1904 and they are my pride and joy, I have cherished owning two well built, lasting structures, one which my family calls home and the other which serves as a home to our tenants over the last sixteen years.

**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 Church on 32<sup>nd</sup> and Lowell is one example of adaptive reuse married with economic redevelopment and strategic reinvestment. Another great example is the Speer Gymnasium, through the work in CM Espinoza's office we were able to save two structures, a home and the Speer Gymnasium. The gymnasium was repurposed as a day care, a Goddard school and through our effort we have a scholarship at the preschool for a child whose parents aren't able to afford the school so diversity remains within the school and the school is giving back to the community.

**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?**

I will continue to use the Council office whenever a CNHS notification comes to the office, to date CM Espinoza and I were able to save 9 structures from demolition. I will also use the Council office as a conduit for the community by being the applicant for any individual landmark structure or landmark district so the community does not have to endure the application fee. I will also leverage district money for Discover Denver neighborhood surveys to continue throughout District 1 and use district funds to pay for

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

I believe the West Highland shopping district on 32<sup>nd</sup> and Lowell would be the biggest preservation challenge and opportunity. The building in the area are so unique and the pedestrian realm is what draws people to the area. Although the zoning would allow for greater density than what is currently built I believe if this area was designated as a Landmark District it could have the same type of draw that LoDo does and would end up being one of the most stable areas in Northwest Denver.

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

I have two answers... this is a very important topic.

1. Not allowing historic district to become vulnerable by dismantling historic landmark districts for the sake of density and redevelopment, the present this would set for other historic landmark districts would have generational unintended consequences.
2. Mandatory mediation during a non-owner historic designation process, and some type of requirement for adaptive reuse and I hope the city of Denver can adopt a deconstruction ordinance.

**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. (see next page)**

