



Historic Denver, Inc.

2019 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

CANDIDATE NAME: Amanda Sawyer, City Council District 5

- 1. Do you have a personal connection with historic preservation? (Please limit your response to no more than 200 words)**

My first experience with historic preservation in Denver was regarding the CU Health Sciences Bridge at the 9+CO development this winter. When I learned that Continuum Partners planned to demolish it, I immediately emailed them and asked for a meeting to find out why, and whether it could be saved. I also reached out to Historic Denver for information on the history and guidance. Unfortunately, the bridge could not be saved, but I learned quite a bit about the process of requesting a historic preservation designation and what is required to receive it.

- 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?**

My favorite example of this is the Hangar 2/Rampart area of Lowry. My family spends quite a bit of time there – especially in the 125 Rampart building. At a minimum, we are in that building once a week. Usually it's more often. My daughter's occupational therapist, orthodontist, and allergist all have offices in that building. For our family, it's both useful and fun to spend time in a little bit of history. And most importantly, it has provided a way for local businesses with local owners to flourish in District 5 while also maintaining the unique historic character of the Lowry Air Force Base.

- 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 believe that the character of our neighborhoods is extremely important, and we need to be more thoughtful about our development plans to maintain what makes them unique. Adaptive reuse is the most useful tool that would help balance infill while helping to preserve the historic look and feel of specific areas.

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

At this time, the most critical historic preservation challenge in District 5 is the old nurse's dorm at the 9+CO development. Like the UC Health Sciences bridge, Continuum Partners appears to be having a difficult time repurposing that structure. Since I started researching the project and reached out to Frank Cannon to ask whether the bridge could be saved, I have been asked several follow-up questions about the agreement regarding the Nurse's Dorm, which I learned about from my conversation with Historic Denver. I have concerns about the fairness of the notification requirement, and I fear that the Nurse's Dorm may be the next to go.

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

A more collaborative partnership between City leaders and our historic preservation organizations.

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.*



This is what historic preservation and adaptive reuse has provided my family: Three smiling kiddos, just leaving the orthodontist and occupational therapist's offices, both of which are located in the 125 Rampart building in Lowry's historic district.