

Historic Denver Action Fund 2018

*Submitted by the Community Preservation Committee of University Park
Community Council, June 1, 2018*

Lead Applicant Name:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Applicant Type

Registered Neighborhood Organization
University Park Community Council (UPCC)

Evidence of eligibility:

Attached

Steering Committee:

Attached - List of seven committee members + their contact info

Applicant Capacity and goals:

Our Community Preservation Committee came together due to the increasing loss of notable homes in University Park. The recent scraping of two significant (both posted) homes was a tipping point (photo attached). We feel that we now have the traction to energetically move ahead with preservation efforts, but need the tools to do that. We want to make residents aware of our unique history and architecture, and pave the way for buy-in on preservation and designation efforts.

We need an accurate and carefully researched history of University Park as the foundation for these efforts, and to know which homes could be eligible for designation either individually or as part of a historic district. In addition, we agree with the recommendation in our 2008 Small Area Plan to have an architectural style book developed for our neighborhood. This would be helpful to create awareness, and to talk to individual homeowners.

Other projects completed:

- Residents raised matching funds to help DU with an SHF grant to restore Chamberlin Observatory.
- Residents and the UPCC board provided funding and volunteer efforts for the designations of Fitzroy Place and Ormleigh.
- We worked with the owner of Holland House on the successful designation application.
- We maintain ongoing education efforts via articles about noteworthy homes and other preservation issues in our neighborhood newsletter and email news. The Ormleigh designation was the result of the owner seeing one of these articles.
- We promote community awareness and develop a friendly preservation face by being present and encouraging participation in neighborhood events.

Project description

1. Develop a history - or historic context - on the neighborhood - basically a thorough but reader friendly narrative that could be used for multiple purposes - tours, a subsequent National Register district or a local landmark district (the districts assume more of a cookie cutter variety). This would tell the story of the neighborhood, major players and architecture, and provide the background for the different eras of architecture and lay the groundwork for the historical significance of the neighborhood, and for subsequent survey / designation work. It could also discuss how intact - or the level of integrity - a building or district would need to have to qualify for designation.
2. Identify the highest priority buildings in the neighborhood for preservation / designation - List, briefly explain and locate via a map the highest priority individual buildings in the neighborhood for intensive research and possible landmark designation. This could lay the groundwork for a National Register or Denver landmark district to pursue individual designations, or a cookie cutter type district. This would not include survey forms on individual properties.
3. Develop a condensed architectural style guide for the neighborhood - This would lay out the important architectural styles / building eras in the neighborhood, provide background on the styles, identify/list important examples of each style, and graphically depict important character-defining

features of these styles (i.e., wide front gabled porches for Bungalows, etc.). This could help the neighborhood as well in terms of educating / talking to individual owners with high style examples.

We would use the above as the basis for education efforts, including walking tours based on our history and notable architecture spanning different eras, giving presentations at our general meetings, providing an online resource, and including information in publications. We would know which homes have high priority for preservation, where to focus research efforts, and be able to approach owners of those homes in a legitimate way.

Implementation Plan:

Acceptance of this application for Action Funds is the major step needed to complete this project. We would be assisting the consultants with oral interviews and collection of historic photographs. This project will be the foundation for envisioned preservation projects in University Park.

Detailed budget:

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. Develop a historic context: | \$4500 |
| 2. Identify highest priority buildings: | \$2000 |
| 3. Develop architectural style book | \$2500 |

TOTAL: \$9,000

Amount of Community Match:

\$2,250

Amount of Request:

\$6,750

Community Support:

We are asking for these funds to DO SOMETHING about the loss of our neighborhood's character. We could say "oh, well," but we believe that creating the foundation for meaningful preservation efforts is a more hopeful option. Obviously, the Community Preservation Committee and the UPCC Board are advocating for these funds, and others in the wider Denver preservation community understand the importance of our request.

We already have raised the total amount of required matching funds (\$2,250) via grassroots donations, in amounts ranging from \$25 to \$500.

Community Impact:

The entire neighborhood will benefit from this effort, in the near term with new information about our history and architecture, and in the long-term with results of preservation and designation efforts. Other Denver residents will be able to learn about our history and architecture via walking tours and online information. If we're successful in receiving these funds, we can coordinate with Discover Denver to make the information accessible to them.

We could also be a template for other neighborhoods with similar issues, and ideally spark them to DO SOMETHING to help preserve their neighborhoods.

Consultant Qualifications:

The consultants for this project would be Square Moon Consultants, LLC, a historic preservation and planning services firm established in 2016 and based in Denver. The firm specializes in historic preservation, identification, research and designations; historic preservation design review and tax credits; and public sector historic preservation planning.

The firm's two principals are Barbara Stocklin-Steely and James W. Steely (*resumes attached*). They did the research and put together the application for the designation of Ormleigh, and through that have already discovered much about University Park. They did exceptional work, were easy to work with, and were always available for questions or comments. It would be a pleasure to work with them again. They request 9 months to complete this project.

Attached are projects done by Square Moon Consultants, which would be similar to what they would produce for University Park. The historic context would be in a less academic style than the town of Elizabeth document, and a short summary would be included. The maps for University Park would be done by Eric Ross, owner of Five Points Geoplanning, LLC, the same GIS/mapping consultant who produced the attached maps (*resume attached*).

Letters of Support:

Attached - 4 letters