EST. 1970 + VOLUME 51 + NUMBER 3 + SUMMER 2022



The former Elyria School is now part of Tepeyac Health. Photo: Tepeyac Health

EXPLORING PRESERVATION ACTION IN OLD ELYRIA

by Leah M. Charney, Historic Denver News Managing Editor

In 2021, a group of community members reached out to Historic Denver about the possibility of creating a Cultural Historic District in Elyria. The part of Denver that stretches along the north-central boundary of the city is referred to as the Elyria-Swansea neighborhood, but Elyria and Swansea were two separate historic towns and remain distinct communities. A Cultural Historic District, centered in the blocks known as Old Town Elyria, would honor the area's diverse history, ties to labor, and unique built environment. The district would be a residential area between 48th and I-70, and Brighton and York, though been conducted and the local newspaper, the *GES Gazette*, has covered the efforts in both their print and online editions. Additionally, Elyria resident Ana Varela continues to lead the charge on social media and has contacted local media outlets. Varela and other community members aim to reach more residents by distributing flyers across the neighborhood; the current goal is to collect stories and discover meaningful ways to celebrate the neighborhood's heritage.

Even from its earliest conception, two core themes have always been at the heart of the Elyria story: Strong community and connection to heavy industry.

When A.C. Fisk, president of the Denver Land and Improvement Company, named the nascent settlement after his home in Ohio, he envisioned Elyria as an alternative to city living. Fisk imagined a community of affordable homes and garden spaces created for working class and immigrant laborers. His vision was soon realized by early settlers, who mostly arrived from Eastern Europe. Following the post-war boom that began in the 1940s, immigrants from Mexico and Central America began to put down roots in Elyria, continuing that original dream of affordable homes for hard working laborers looking to build better lives in a new country.

the exact boundaries will be determined after additional community input and research.

Following additional discussion with Historic Denver, the group applied for our Action Fund last year. The Action Fund program focuses on catalyzing neighborhood and community projects that enhance our city's unique identity, tell diverse stories, promote and maintain authentic character, and honor cultural heritage as reflected by the built environment. Historic Denver awarded \$15,000 to fund community outreach efforts and also hire a consultant to research and write a district application.

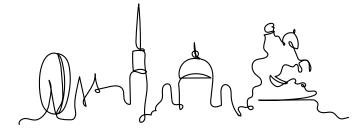
As the Action Fund process progresses, Historic Denver continues to work with the community group to support their efforts to reach out directly to more neighbors to give residents and owners the opportunity to discuss neighborhood history and also understand what a designation would mean. Thus far, two community meetings have

After the Discover Denver team surveyed the area in 2016, they noted, "The general public should be made aware of the special role that Elyria and Swansea played in Denver's history." That special history includes Riverside Cemetery, the National Western Complex CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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Current Issues A Letter From Our Executive Director

s I prepared to write this last letter as Executive Director before moving on to a new opportunity next month, I looked back to my first in which I shared my personal preservation story. I wrote about attending three historic Denver Public Schools and the way those experiences infused me with a love for buildings that imbue a sense of continuity, a bit of grandeur, and a lot of stories.

In the years since that first column, I am grateful to have worked with a team of staff members and dozens of board members to grow, expand, and evolve the work of our organization. Just as I saw myself reflected in our city's stories as a kid growing up in Denver, I wanted everyone in our community to have that same sense of connection and find opportunities to see themselves reflected in our historic places. This inspired our work to create Denver Story Trek over 10 years ago, to expand the Action Fund to serve diverse neighborhoods across the city, to launch the 50 Actions for 50 Places campaign to broaden the places and spaces worthy of preservation action, and to engage every day in action and advocacy on behalf of the places that make Denver Denver.

I am particularly proud of our efforts to find creative solutions to preservation challenges and dilemmas. This is exemplified by projects like the Emily Griffith Opportunity School, for which we led the charge in 2012, and which opened last month as The Slate, a hotel that honors the tremendous legacy of Ms. Griffith and the stories of thousands of Denverites who found education and opportunities in those halls. I see the fruits of our collective labors when I drive by the commercial building at 17th & Pearl, now incorporated into a residential development instead of being surrounded by surface parking lots. Or when I pass the home of African American architect John Henderson or sit in traffic on Colorado Boulevard and admire the Margaret Long House, built by a pioneering woman physician, both now Denver Landmarks.

One of the goals most important to me when I began my time as Executive Director was to reinvest in the Molly Brown House Museum, where I'd started my time with Historic Denver in 2003. It is gratifying to visit now and see the freshly painted trim, the restored front porch where visitors gather, the repaired roofs that shelter our invaluable collection, and the new spaces that allow more members of our community to access the museum. Our talented staff works tirelessly to ensure that after 50 years welcoming visitors, the museum remains an example of preservation at its finest.

In this last year we also brought two special designations across the finish-line — the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District and the Steele Street Extension to the East 7th Avenue Historic Denver. What made these two efforts special, and the best part of my job, was meeting the dedicated community members who are tied to these places, whose stories they represent. In La Alma Lincoln Park, Chicana activist Cathy Prieto has graciously welcomed us to her community over and over again, sharing her family's connection to their house and their neighborhood. The inspiring Judge Raymond Jones is a civil rights activist and Colorado's first African American Apellate judge; it was a joy to be the person who conducted his oral history and sat with his family as their longtime former home was honored during the designation of the Steele Street Extension.

Amidst all these many joys and proud moments were some hard losses, and one of the key lessons I've learned is that the work of preservationists is never done. A once-saved place will need reinvestment. Community priorities shift, new threats arise, and the pressures of time, gravity, and moisture are relentless. And importantly, as we individually and collectively listen, learn, and seek to take action on injustice in our society, it becomes clear that many important places have been unacknowledged, erased, or neglected. There is much work yet to be done. I look forward to continuing this work in the next stage of my career, and to supporting Historic Denver, albeit in a new capacity as member, friend, and cheerleader.

Thank you for your friendship, your support, and your passion for Denver's places.

anne herinoky





HISTORIC DENVER, INC.

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HISTORIC DENVER NEWS

Leah Charney
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Historic Denver News welcomes your letters, contents of which may be edited for length and clarity. Please include your name, address and telephone number in correspondence to: Editor, Historic Denver News, 1420 Ogden Street, Denver, CO 80218

SEARCH FOR NEXT HISTORIC DENVER LEADER UNDERWAY

The Board of Trustees are undertaking the important and thoughtful work of finding a new leader to take Historic Denver into the future. The board has engaged an experienced search consultant to help navigate this effort, and we are now actively encouraging applications for the position from qualified local and national candidates.

The President & CEO is responsible for the organization's preservation, advocacy, fundraising, programming, and outreach efforts, as well as the overall vision of the organization. The President & CEO thinks and plans strategically and inspires community members to become more engaged in the work of the organization.

Details about all the job responsibilities, the opportunities for impact, and application instructions can be found at: historicdenver.org

We encourage qualified candidates of all backgrounds and circumstances to apply for this strategic leadership role.

NOTE: In the cover story of our Spring 2022 issue, "Queer Spaces in Denver 1870-1980," we misspelled the name of curator Stan Oliner.

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs were taken by Jay Homstad.



Culture for all.



Residences abut railroad track and Interstate 70 in the Elyria neighborhood. Photo: Michael Flowers

EXPLORING PRESERVATION ACTION IN OLD ELYRIA, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and Denver Union Stockyards, plus the packing houses that sprung up around them, and the Omaha and Grant Smelter, which was demolished in 1950 but still appears on the City & County of Denver seal. In the 20th century, other industry — like veterinary vaccine makers Colorado Serum, steel plate fabricators Eaton Metals, and the Ralston Purina (now Nestlé Purina) plant — moved in to take advantage of both abundant rail lines and the number of qualified workers who already resided in the sister neighborhoods of Elyria, Swansea, nearby Globeville, and other surrounding areas.

Then as now, railroad tracks criss-crossed through the neighborhood, which still has more operating rail infrastructure than any other in Denver. Located one block north of I-70, midway between Brighton Boulevard and York Street, Old Town Elyria had a streetcar line as early as 1892, which ran west from Josephine Street to the National Western Center and also extended north on Race Street to Riverside Cemetery. Though the streetcars were designed for people, the railroads were built for the smelters, packing houses, and stockyards, but not necessarily for the residents. The tracks cut the early towns — and later the neighborhoods — off from neighboring communities, further strengthening internal community bonds.

Aside from rail lines, transportation continues to play an outsized role in the neighborhood. When the I-70 viaduct opened on September 12, 1964, the six-lane, 2.6-mile stretch of highway perched above 46th Avenue ushered in a new era of mobility for Denver and the Mountain West. But it also further segregated the neighborhoods of Globeville and Elyria-Swansea by essentially splitting the area in half. Neighbors in one of the poorest areas of the city fought hard against the construction but did not prevail. Construction to remove the viaduct in this same stretch that began some 50 years later, once again disrupting life in the neighborhood, is now nearing completion. As impacts and pressures continue, residents are now working to ensure that Elyria's special stories and historic heritage are captured.

Grassroots groups reflecting the neighborhood's cultural identity, which has long been diverse, began to see heavy influence by Latino/a and Chicano/a residents in the later part of the mid-20th century. One example is Su Teatro, the third oldest Chicano theater company in the country, which made its home in the neighborhood for many years. Formed out of the Chicano Movement of the 1960s and 1970s, Su Teatro (Your Theater) first organized in 1972 and cut their teeth performing skits that were politically charged and designed to incite civic action. By the 1980s, the group was staging full-length original plays centered on "celebrating the experiences, history, language, and cultural heritage of Chicanos, Mexicanos, and Latinos throughout the Americas." In 1989, the company found its first physical home in the old Elyria School building, located at 4725 High Street and abandoned since the late 1970s.

Su Teatro transformed the Elyria School building into an arts and culture hub known throughout the city. The Elyria School became a local landmark in 1996, the very first in the 80216 zip code. In the 1990s, Historic Denver led an initiative to review historic Denver school buildings, with students doing the research needed for the nominations. The project resulted in 20 current or former schools receiving local designation. Su Teatro later decamped to a larger building in the Santa Fe Arts District in the 2000s and the Elyria School Building is now administrative headquarters of Tepeyac Health, a Latino/a-led non-profit healthcare center that provides low-cost healthcare to Denver's medically underserved. We are supporting the Elyria group with uncovering more stories related to the Chicano/a, Hispano/a, Latino/a, and larger immigrant communities. Additional community meetings will be scheduled in the future and we encourage anyone who is interested in learning more about current efforts or to share your Elyria stories by reaching out to Elyria.Colorado@gmail.com or mflowers@historicdenver.org. **#**

DISCOVER DENVER'S "FIND OF THE WEEK" UNCOVERS THE UNUSUAL

by Kerry Baldwin, Research and Evaluation Coordinator



Each Wednesday, when we post the Discover Denver "Find of the Week" to our Facebook page **(facebook. com/DiscoverDenverSurvey)** comments roll in almost immediately. On a recent post about a former laundry for railroad workers that is now a residence, a neighbor wrote, "I've been so curious about the story of this building ever since I moved to the Cole neighborhood." A few comments later, another wrote, "It's my house," alongside a smiley face emoji.

We love seeing our community come together both online and in the field. People often want to know how we find these interesting stories and how we decide which

buildings to feature. Though the buildings are first identified through Discover Denver's survey work in neighborhoods throughout the city, structures are identified for historical research — and later for the Find of the Week — in a number of ways.

The Discover Denver citywide building survey works neighborhood by neighborhood to identify Denver buildings that are historically, architecturally, or culturally significant. Discover Denver staff and volunteers speak with many neighbors and homeowners while surveying properties. As they work, our team draws the attention of neighborhood residents. Standing in front of each building and taking photographs, we expect people to be curious (and sometimes suspicious) of our surveyors. We enjoy talking about the project and collecting important pieces of information from the community about specific buildings.

We ask these members of the community questions like: What buildings in your neighborhood have surprising histories? What buildings do people use to give directions, like "Take a right at the farmhouse"? Which buildings are used to tell stories, such as "There was a murder in that house!"?

We also review our survey data and identify more buildings that may have significance due to association with a cultural group, significant person, architectural style, or neighborhood history. Examples of several buildings that merited further research by our team include a Queen-Anne-style home in the City Park West neighborhood, designed by noted Colorado architect Robert Roeschlaub; a bungalow in the Cole neighborhood that was the meeting place for the Denver Federation of Colored Women's Clubs; and a Sunnyside farmhouse built in 1888, where German immigrants grew food to sell at Denver's central markets.



This former railroad laundry in the Cole neighborhood is currently a private residence. Photo: Leah Charney



estimated 160,000 buildings. To perform the research, we have a team of research volunteers who are trained to access and utilize resources such as assessor and ownership records, building permits, deeds, early maps, and newspapers. We are lucky in Denver because many of our historic records are digitized and available online at the Denver Public Library and through the city's website.

Using these mostly online resources, researchers uncover when the building was built, possibly the architect or builder, a list of previous owners, names of people or businesses who lived and/or worked in the building, permits and changes to the structure, and more. Volunteers use that information to write a brief history report for the structure. It is a fun process full of discoveries and challenges. Once we have these details, we can then also figure out which incredible story our "Find of the Week" can share next. **#**

DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT A BUILDING THAT HAS A SURPRISING HISTORY?

Or do you have an early photograph of a building? Please share your knowledge with us! Discover Denver's website has an interactive map where you can upload stories, memories and photographs related to buildings that are important to you. We are also diligently working to make all our research available; a selection is currently available on Discover Denver's website, **discoverdenver.co**

HISTORIC DENVER INC.

3

MOLLY BROWN House museum

CAPITOL HILL CONNECTION: MARGARET BROWN AND 1420 CLARKSON

By Stephanie McGuire, Museum Curator

Behind the scenes at the Molly Brown House Museum we are constantly uncovering new pieces of the big history puzzle! As we dig through archives and make connections, Denver's story continues to unfold, shedding light on significant places that shaped our city. Just a few documents can change the way we understand our past, which is still present around us. Earlier this year we found a piece that did just that.

While poring over 1912 newspapers in preparation for our "Heroine of the Titanic" exhibit — open through September 25, 2022 — I noticed that a few articles mentioned that Margaret Brown sent letters to 1420 N. Clarkson St. a few days before she boarded the ship. Just blocks away from the Molly Brown House Museum, where Mrs. Brown left her mark on the Denver landscape, the Clarkson house still stands, now located across from the Argonaut Liquor parking lot.

The 1912 occupants of this house helped spread news of Mrs. Brown's whereabouts following the Titanic disaster. Florence and Helen Tobin, Margaret Brown's nieces, were staying at Susan McManus' home on Clarkson Street while their aunt, who was their sole guardian, was on a long trip through Rome, Cairo, and Paris. Mrs. McManus had written to Mrs. Brown in Paris, asking for permission to take the Tobin sisters to Europe on a planned trip. Mrs. Brown replied on Saturday, April 6, saying she approved and that she herself was preparing to sail back home, likely on the Titanic. When news of the Titanic's sinking reached the McManus house on April 15, the Tobin nieces feared for their aunt's life, knowing from her letter that she had probably boarded the ill-fated ship.

Mrs. McManus was interviewed in Denver newspapers multiple times beginning on April 16. She was able to share what she knew about Mrs. Brown's intentions before definitive Titanic passenger lists had been circulated. When the rescue ship Carpathia docked on April 19, news spread that "Mrs. J.J. Brown" had indeed survived.

So who was Susan McManus and why were Margaret Brown's nieces staying with her? A hit more digging revealed that Susan McManus was the aunt of Leslie M. Carroll. In 1911, cManus threw an evening party and

IN MEMORIAM

Historic Denver recently lost a former board member and a current board member. They both deeply impacted the preservation scene in Denver and we will be forever grateful to all they contributed to our organization.

BOB RHODES (1935-2022) BOARD ALUMNI



Bob Rhodes started his Denver career at the flagship May D & F Department Store. His legendary window displays earned acclaim, including the 3-story ski jump he designed there in 1964, which began in the women's clothing section and ended on the ice rink below. He later went on to be an advocate and supporter of Historic Denver's efforts to save the store's Zeckendorf Plaza in the 1990s, which was ultimately demolished.

He initiated the Parade of Lights, now in its 47th year, and led Historic Denver's famed Night in Old Denver event, a major fundraiser for preservation in the 1970s. Additionally, Bob served

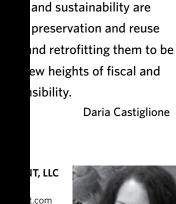
on the Historic Denver board for many years, always bringing his sense of humor to the endeavor, and was instrumental in the efforts to save the Paramount Theater. He is survived by his wife, Sandy, his children, and his grandchildren.

JONATHAN BUSH (1959-2022) CURRENT BOARD MEMBER



As a fourth generation Coloradoan, Jonathan loved historic places and was deeply invested in communities across metro-Denver, often rehabilitating longtime structures and breathing new life into old places. His notable projects helude the successful Edgewater Public Market, which turned an abandoned rocery store and languishing strip enter into a food-hall-anchored retail lex, and the adaptive reuse of 777 r, an architect.

r for Little Capital Partners (LCP) two more in progress. Jonathan before finally joining the Historic e involved in Historic Denver's on potential uses and methods ght great energy and integrity to as a friend and the many ways of Denver's special places. He Ifriend, Emie Watters, and his





Castle Lion Development, LLC Historic Preservationist • General Contractor • Certified Passive House Tradesperson





2021 ANNUAL REPORT

t Historic Denver we believe everyone should see themselves in the story of our city as reflected through its places. Our work centered this value in 2021 as we focused on identifying, amplifying, and protecting places that tell the full depth, diversity, and breadth of our city's story.

This included new discoveries at our longest project — the Molly Brown House Museum. In March we marked the 50th anniversary of the museum's opening. A true milestone, the anniversary was not only full of pride for all that we've accomplished at the museum and its stature as a leading women's history site, but also a chance to look back with fresh eyes at our own organizational origins. When we did, we found under-recognized depths in how the property at 1340 Pennsylvania factors into our city's story, learning for the first time the full significance of Art Leisenring's stewardship of the house in the 1960s. He not only ensured it would not be demolished by helping to found Historic Denver, he also made sure that the city's LGBTQ community, especially gay men, had a safe place to live and gather. This story came forward because the Leisenring Family graciously donated scrapbooks to our archives that document those years, and show the deep love Mr. Leisenring had for the "House of Lions." Bringing this story forward also demonstrates how historic places are full of layered history. Their "period of significance" is not singular, but iterative.

This same theme was at the heart of another 2021 success story, the designation of the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District. Approved unanimously by City Council in August, the district's 19th-century homes were recognized for their 20th century importance — particularly the neighborhood's close association with the local and national Chicano Movement. This designation was the result of five years of hard work by community residents, Historic Denver staff, supporters and friends, and partners. It is among the first districts in the country designated for association with the Chicano Movement. Its nomination, and companion design-guidelines, are an example of how preservation is evolving to recognize the complexity of layered history and better serve the values of diversity and inclusion. The project has become a national example and was recently honored by History Colorado and featured in the National Trust for Historic Preservation's magazine, *Preservation*.

Other notable 2021 milestones include our efforts to support the designation of the Steele Street Extension to the East 7th Avenue Historic District, which included the longtime home of Judge Raymond Jones, Colorado's first African American appellate judge; our work to support the restoration of the Dr. Justina Ford House for the continued use by the Black American West Museum & Heritage Center; our advocacy for women's history sites at the Loretto Heights campus and at the former Colorado Women's College Campus; and the restoration of the First Unitarian Society of Denver — the first landmark in Colorado recognized because of its efforts to advance LGBTQ rights.

In 2021 we also released our 50 Actions for 50 Places list — the culmination of our 50th anniversary campaign to identify the places and spaces that are worthy of future preservation action. The list included a compelling and exciting range of places: From the boarding house of the formerly enslaved Julia Greeley, to the home of musician George Morrison, to Denver's Chinatown, to the oldest house in the Park Hill Neighborhood, all the way to Lakeside Amusement Park. We've already made great progress on advancing the stories and preservation of these places — work that continues in 2022 and on into 2023. The list inspired new community advocacy, has already increased the diversity of Denver's recognized historic places, and reminds us all that preservation at its best is a grassroots, community effort.

Historic Denver's members, supporters, and friends made all this work possible, and, while 2021 remained a challenging year for non-profits of all kinds, Historic Denver is financially healthy, energized for the future, and full of gratitude for the enduring support of our community.

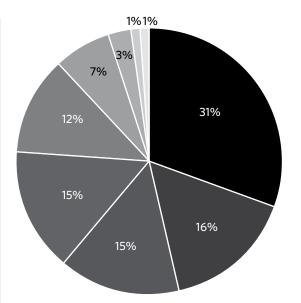
anne herinoky

Annie Robb Levinsky Executive Director

HISTORIC DENVER BY THE NUMBERS

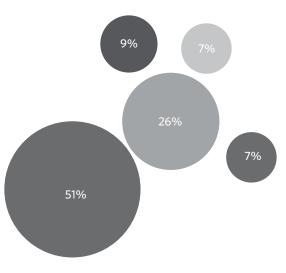
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

AUDITED 2021			2	2020			
Revenue and other support	U	nrestricted	mporarily stricted	/ Total		Total	
Contributions/Support	\$	161,283.		\$	161,283.	\$	267,233
Admissions	\$	441,423.		\$	441,423.	\$	180,153
Education & Programs	\$	205,976.		\$	205,976.	\$	120,485
Gift Shop Sales	\$	180,808.		\$	91,746.	\$	91,746
Less cost of goods sold	\$	(75,088.)		\$	(75,088.)	\$	(46,769.)
Foundations & Other Grants	\$	230,900.		\$	230,900.	\$	250,766
PPP Grant & Insurance Proceeds	\$	168,000.		\$	168,000.	\$	168,000
Membership Income	\$	48,201.		\$	48,465.	\$	48,465
Investment Return	\$	41,381.		\$	41,381.	\$	54,304
Project Management Activity							
Project expenses and reimbursements	\$	930,949.		\$	930,949.	\$	956,598
Project management fees	\$	58,002.		\$	58,002.	\$	74,122
Less: project management expenditures	\$	(1,000,412.)	 	\$	(1,000,412.)	\$	(965,468.)
	\$	(11,461.)		\$	(11,461.)	\$	65,252
Other	\$	650.		\$	650.	\$	41,478
In-Kind	\$	18,887.		\$	18,887.	\$	13,478
Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$	5,195.	\$ (5,195.)	\$	(5,195.)		
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	1,416,155.	\$ (5,195.)	\$	1,410,960.	\$	1,255,271
Expense							
Preservation & Advocacy	\$	350,009.	 	\$	350,009.	\$	237,448
Molly Brown House Museum	\$	681,872.		\$	681,872.	\$	654,171
Education & Awareness	\$	90,084.		\$	90,084.	\$	218,334
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	\$	1,121,965.		\$	1,121,965.	\$	1,109,954
Management & General	\$	118,915.		\$	118,915.	\$	107,118
Membership & Development	\$	87,987.		\$	87,987.	\$	82,673
TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES	\$	206,902.	 	\$	206,902.	\$	189,791
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$	1,328,867.		\$	1,328,867.	\$	1,299,745
Change in net assets	\$	87,288.	\$ (5,195.)	\$	82,093.	\$	(44,474.)
Net assets, beginning of the year	\$	2,074,388.	\$ 5,195.	\$	2,079,583.	\$	2,124,057
NET ASSETS, END OF THE YEAR	\$	2,161,676.	 	\$	2,161,676.	\$	2,079,583



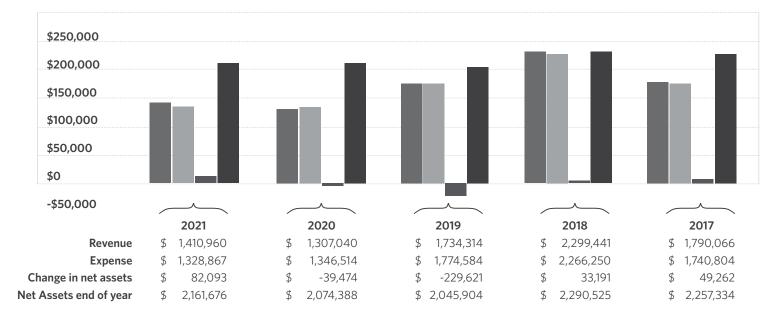
REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT

Admissions	\$ 441,423	31%
Foundation Grants	\$ 230,900	16%
Education and Programs	\$ 205,976	15%
Contributions & Membership	\$ 209,484	15%
PPP Grant	\$ 168,000	12%
Grant Management	\$ -11,461	-1%
Gift Shop Sales	\$ 105,720	7%
Other	\$ 5,845	0%
Investment Return	\$ 41,381	3%
In-Kind Donations	\$ 18,887	1%
TOTAL	\$ 1,416,155	



EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

Molly Brown House Museum	\$ 681,872	51%
Preservation and Advocacy	\$ 350,009	26%
Education and Awareness	\$ 90,084	7%
Management and General	\$ 118,915	9%
Membership and Development	\$ 87,987	7%
TOTAL	\$ 1,328,867	



SUMMER 2022

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by Michael Flowers, Director of Preservation Action

In 2021, Denverites nominated dozens of sites for Historic Denver's 50 Actions for 50 Places. The campaign is designed to identify the places our communities cannot imagine Denver without, especially those that have been under-recognized in the past and those that reflect the full depth and diversity in our city's story. After the submission period, the list was narrowed to 50 sites for which we've been actively working with community members and property owners to develop preservation actions of all kinds, from research projects, to interpretive plans, to publicity efforts, to local and National Register designation applications. As actions get underway or are completed, we'll report the news in these pages and on our social media accounts.

STEDMAN ELEMENTARY MOVES FORWARD WITH NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION



Stedman Elementary, constructed in 1925, represents Denver's expansion and has an important place in Denver architecture, but its most significant historical component is its association with civil rights Supreme Court case, Keyes v. School District No. 1.

Stedman was a part of a massive schools development program that included building or expanding 27 elementary schools, six junior high schools and four high schools in the 1920s. Designed by George L. Bettcher in the Collegiate Gothic Style, two more modern additions by architect George Meredith Musick were added in 1950 and 1966.

Though legally mandated segregation of public schools was ruled unconstitutional in the 1954 landmark Brown v. Board of Education case, it did not prevent school systems from enacting policies and practices that led to schools becoming heavily segregated in Denver during the 1960s. School district boundaries were reworked, mobile classrooms were located at schools with already segregated student bodies, and white students were bused to predominantly white schools, all of which contributed to the continued segregation after the Brown ruling. These issues were exacerbated by racist real estate practices such as redlining.

Stedman was one of the schools affected by these practices and was cited in the Keyes case as an example of continued segregation. Robert T. Connery, an attorney who worked on the case, noted in the Denver Law Review that Stedman went from having 4% African American students in 1960 to 94.6% by 1968. A similar phenomenon was also documented at nearby schools. In 1960, Black students who had been attending Park Hill Elementary were reassigned to the newly built Barrett Elementary, on the other side of Colorado Boulevard, which opened with a 90% African American student body. Thereafter, Park Hill Elementary was predominantly white, marking a clear intention by the policies.



WELTON STREET CAFE AWARDED LEGACY RESTAURANT GRANT

Courtesy Welton Street Cafe

The café was nominated to our 50 Actions for 50 Places campaign just ahead of their planned move to 2883 Welton St., but building out the new space comes with associated costs. Historic Denver recently partnered with the owners to apply for a \$40,000 Backing Historic Small Restaurants grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. News of the award came in early July, and Historic Denver will manage the grant without a fee so that

"What makes Welton Street Cafe so unique [compared] to the new development of Five Points is that it's inclusive of everyone, no matter what your race is, your age, any type of identifier or social status. It's always a place that will have diversity and inclusiveness"

Fathima Dickerson Co-owner the full awarded amount can cover expenses for exterior renovations and general operating costs associated with the move.

In the 1970s, Mona and Flynn Dickerson moved to Denver from the Virgin Islands and have since owned and operated restaurants with their children for over 38 years, including Welton Street Cafe. The restaurant is managed by three of their nine children, Fathima, Fathim, and Cenya, with additional assistance from all family members. It is currently in the process of relocating to a larger space just up the block- to an early 20th Century Commercial building.

The move to a new location will better serve their customer base and expand the business. Though the restaurant's location will change, the family's commitment to providing a safe space for the African American community, as well as delicious Caribbeanstyle cuisine, will not.

Welton Street Cafe is an integral part of Denver's Black community and history. The Dickerson Family is

proud to have kept their kitchen open in the face of hardships such as gentrification and the pandemic, both of which have taken a toll on businesses in the area. Additionally, even in the face of increased operating costs, they have kept their menu items affordable so that all can enjoy. The Dickersons have designed Welton Street Cafe as a place to celebrate life, a space for family gatherings, and a hub for information and communication; they carry Black news publications from both Denver and Colorado Springs.

We are excited to work with the Dickersons as they expand their business to better serve Denver's Five Points community and feel honored that we can help bring needed resources to this noteworthy Denver establishment.

The Welton Street Cafe is currently operating with limited carryout hours at a temporary location while simultaneously raising money to help renovate the new space at 2883 Welton. If you'd like to support Welton Street Cafe please visit **weltonstreetcafe.com** for more information on how to donate. **#**

Rachel Noel, a mother of a former Park Hill Elementary student who was reassigned to Barrett Elementary, and the school board's first African American member, proposed a resolution to eliminate practices that resulted in segregation. The Noel Resolution called for a "comprehensive plan for the integration of the Denver Public Schools system" to be adopted no later than September 30, 1968. After candidates opposing the resolution were elected in 1969, it was rescinded.

The recission of the Noel Resolution provided the catalyst for the case that would go all the way to the Supreme Court with Wilford Keyes, a resident of Park Hill, as the lead plaintiff. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs in 1973, upholding an injunction from a lower court for DPS to reimplement the Noel Resolution. The Supreme Court also made clear that if one school was to be found segregated then the entirety of the school system was considered segregated and needed to be addressed, signaling a hard-fought victory for civil rights and equal opportunity education.

As a 50 Actions for 50 Places nominee, Historic Denver is working with school staff to nominate Stedman Elementary to the National Register of Historic Places in order to recognize its important social history and open potential avenues for future grant funding.



HISTORIC DENVER INC.

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PRESERVATION BRIEFS



This mural, Sierras y Colores, was painted by Carlos Sandoval and is located in the town of San Luis, in Costilla County. Photo: Chicano/a/x Murals of Colorado Project

COLORADO'S CHICANO/A/X MURALS ADDED TO NATIONAL 11 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES LIST

by Lucha Martinez de Luna, Director of Chicano/a/x Murals of Colorado Project and Shannon Stage, Manager of Grants and Preservation Services at Historic Denver

In May, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Chicano/a/x Community Murals of Colorado to the 2022 list of the 11 Most Endangered Historic Places in the country. The murals are under threat due to rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods and a lack of legal protections that put these artworks at high risk of destruction and erasure. Colorado's harsh climate also causes deterioration and fading that further threaten these murals.

The community murals represent the Hispano history and culture of Chicano/a/x people of Colorado; protecting them goes beyond aesthetics. Lucha Martinez de Luna, the Director of Chicano/a/x Murals of Colorado (CMCP) explains, "The Chicano/a/x community believes that erasure of these murals is more than a loss of artwork, it is an erasure of cultural identity and a signal that Chicano/a/x heritage 'does not matter.' In many instances, the murals were created by the community, for the community — literally illustrating the significance of these neighborhoods."

Many of the murals identified by CMCP were painted in the 1970s as an expression of the Chicano Movement. The Chicano Movement sought to address civil rights, land rights, labor rights, educational equity, and equal representation, and artist-activists created murals to inspire neighborhood pride and strengthen community. Just as the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and 70s used art as a means to educate young people and citizens-at-large, these murals showcase the significant contributions of Hispanos, Chicanos, Mexican Americans, and Latinos to American society.

As the artists who created them age or pass away, time is limited to restore and protect the murals. Since 1988, the National Trust has annually recognized threatened sites across the US, aiming to raise the public profile of the included sites and catalyze preservation action. The 2022 list is the first to include murals and reflects a growing commitment to recognize

A TRANSFORMATIONAL REUSE HONORS EMILY GRIFFITH LEGACY

by Annie Levinsky, Executive Director

For 100 years, the buildings at 12th & Welton Streets were home to the Emily Griffith Opportunity School — the influential and pioneering legacy of an educator determined to create opportunity for all Denverites. When the programs moved in 2014, the buildings the school left behind represent not only Emily Griffith's story but the generations of community members who passed through the halls.

It's estimated 1.6 million people received an education through the school's many programs at the original location. Emily Griffith first opened her school "for all who wished to learn" in the old Longfellow School, built on the site in 1882. Later, new buildings were added, including the 1926 Main Education Building on the southern edge of the site. Eventually the Longfellow School was demolished to make way for more expansion, including the 1947 Building, and the 1956 addition to it, which runs along Welton Street.

The former school reopened in May 2022 as The Slate Denver, a boutique hotel that honors Griffith's legacy and ensures it remains part of our city's architectural record. How this transformational adaptive reuse came about goes back 10 years and reflects the importance of advocacy, persistence, and preservation incentives.

In 2012, as the district began to plan for the future of the Emily Griffith programs, Denver Public Schools (DPS) began preparing to sell the 12th & Welton complex and filed for a Certificate of Non-Historic Status (now called a Certificate of Demolition Eligibility). Community response was intense, with an outcry over losing the buildings on land that had been in the public trust for nearly 150 years. Additionally, a DPS Historic Schools Policy adopted in 2002 had identified the school as a high priority for landmark designation. Historic Denver expressed immediate concern and reached out to district officials and school board members, who agreed to withdraw their application and engage in dialogue.

Ultimately, DPS and Historic Denver submitted a landmark designation application to protect all the buildings along Welton Street, while offering more flexibility for the buildings along Glenarm. Denver City Council approved the designation in 2016. Stonebridge, a hospitality company, purchased the entire block in 2017 and broke ground on the hotel reuse effort in 2019. Historic Denver provided resource information on tax credits and feedback on design concepts during the planning stages.

The challenges and setbacks created by the COVID-19 pandemic made the hotel's opening all the sweeter. The Slate Denver's boutique property includes many nods to its educational heritage; future plans to activate buildings along the Glenarm side of the block will make "Emily's Alley" one of the city's most unique assets.

Emily Griffith moved to Colorado in 1895 and began teaching at Denver's Central School in 1896. When she became the principal of the Twenty-Fourth Street School (later named Crofton Elementary) in 1915, Griffith began offering vocational and night courses for non-traditional students. Once she saw the benefits of providing practical vocational training to entire families, Griffith began to campaign for the creation of a school in which there would be no age requirements or financial obstacles.

A 1915 Denver Post article quoted Ms. Griffith, stating, "I want the age limit for admission lifted and classes so organized that a boy or a girl working in a bakery, store, laundry or any kind of shop, who has an hour or two to spare, may come to my school and study what he or she wants to learn to make life more useful. The same rule goes for older folks too. I already have a name for the school. It is 'Opportunity'."

The school programs continue today as the Emily Griffith Technical College with multiple locations near downtown Denver. \clubsuit

places that express our nation's diversity.

"These murals are enduring artistic expressions of cultural identity and are powerful representations of history, creativity, and pride," National Trust Chief Preservation Officer Katherine Malone-France added. "These murals should be recognized as significant contributions to our American cultural landscape that help ensure that our country's full story is told."

Historic Denver began partnering with CMCP in 2018, when we awarded an Action Fund grant to preserve three murals in the La Alma Lincoln Park neighborhood. Funding assisted with the purchase of a product called MuralShield[™] to restore the paint color and protect the murals from harsh weather and graffiti. These funds also enable CMCP to install plaques next to the murals to heighten awareness of both the stories and the artists.

Historic Denver also assists CMCP in their conversations with the City of Denver as CMCP navigates the possibility of legal protections for murals and catalyzes action for places important to our shared heritage. While our support helps CMCP in one piece of their efforts, they need to raise awareness of the threat these murals face across the state. As Martinez de Luna notes, "The murals represent the memory of a people. They say 'I am here' and validate voices who are facing ever fewer cultural support systems."

Although the exact number is unknown, it is believed that more than 40 such historic community murals exist across the state of Colorado. For additional photos and more information about the Chicano/a/x Community Murals of Colorado, visit chicanomuralsofcolorado.com



SUMMER 2022

Thank You

New and Renewing Members April 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022

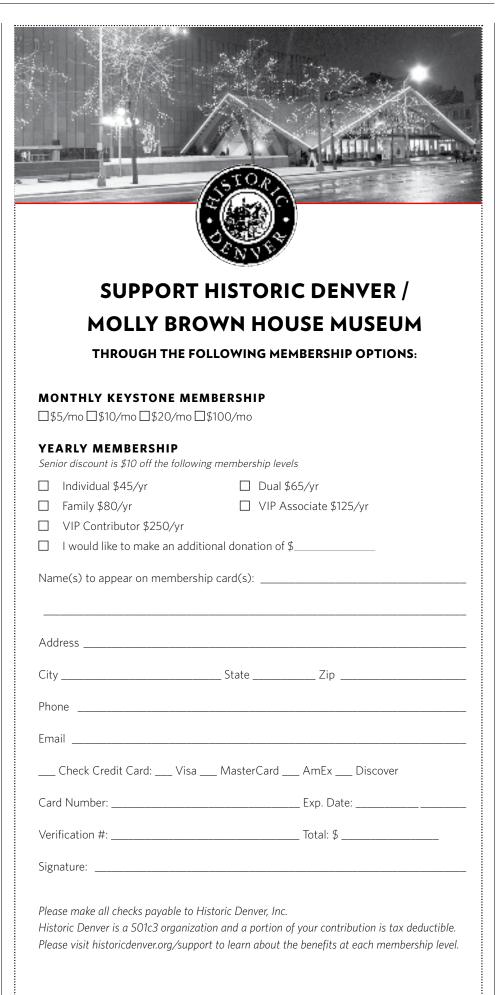
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To purchase tickets to upcoming events visit: historicdenver.org



A DEEPER DIVE! - BEACON OF HOPE

July 19, 6pm • Virtual • Free, Donations Appreciated

Angelica Harris and Adrian Saker from the Friends of the Titanic Lighthouse will take us back in time as they share their research and work to keep alive the memories of those lost on the Titanic. Harris will focus on her research journey to find her uncles, Alberto and Sebastiano Peracchio who were crew members in the A' La Carte Restaurant on Titanic. She'll discuss her findings for the book, Titanic The Brothers Peracchio: Two Boys and a Dream. Saker will share the story of the construction of the Titanic Memorial Lighthouse, known as a beacon of hope, and the history that finds it in its current New York City location. Registration required to attend.

A Deeper Dive! is our speaker series to accompany the Titanic exhibit, shown throughout the house from April-September. In this series, hosted by museum staff and Titanic experts (and others!), we'll discuss the stories within the larger story of the Titanic disaster.



1340 PENN - TRANS-ATLANTIC BOOZE CRUISE

July 21, 7:15pm • Molly Brown House Museum • \$16/member, \$20/non-member Book your tickets now to explore (and taste) some of the popular cocktails that would have been found aboard passenger ships like the Titanic, which sailed during the golden age of cocktails. Food and cocktails included — sinking ship not guaranteed!

The Molly Brown House Museum's 1340 Penn series draws on the chilling tales and taboo topics found at Margaret Brown's home. From sassy suffragists to soulful spirits, see 1340 Penn in a whole new light!

MEET TWO OF THE LARGEST GROUPS ABOARD TITANIC August 16, 6pm • Virtual • Free, Donations Appreciated

Who else was traveling on "the ship of dreams" and what are their stories? Join authors Lilly Setterdahl and Leila Salloum Elias as they reflect on the large Swedish and Syrian contingents who were en route to America when their lives were forever changed. Leila Salloum Elias authored The Dream and Then the Nightmare: The Syrians Who Boarded the Titanic. Lilly Setterdahl authored Not my Time to Die: Titanic and the Swedes on Board.

A Deeper Dive! is our speaker series to accompany the Titanic exhibit, shown throughout the house from April-September. In this series, hosted by museum staff and Titanic experts (and others!), we'll discuss the stories within the larger story of the Titanic disaster.

SUMMER SIP N' CRAFT -SUFFRAGE ROSE

August 27, 5pm • Molly Brown House Museum • \$20/member, \$25/non-member

The continuous struggle for women's participation and equality in all spheres of life and society is observed on Women's Equality Day, August 26. To mark the day, artist Amy Marsh will guide you to create a beautiful one-of-a kind textured acrylic painting on a wood base. In the early 1900s, the women's suffrage movement used the yellow roses to show support for a woman's right to vote, and so too can you!

SALON SERIES: WOMEN AS



A SCREENING OF "THE SIX" WITH GUEST STEVEN SCHWANKERT

September 15, 6pm • Alamo Drafthouse @ Sloan's Lake • Tickets start at \$30

Mystery surrounds so many of the lives, both saved and lost, in the Titanic tragedy. One of those mysteries — what happened to the Chinese men aboard Titanic--intrigued documentary filmmaker Steven Schwankert enough that he took the deepest of dives to discover what happened to this group of men.

Presented along with our friends at Colorado Asian Pacific United, join us at the Alamo Drafthouse to talk with Steven about this journey of discovery and then watch the documentary "The Six. In this notto-be-missed fundraising event for each organization, we'll see what it takes to track down a Titanic mystery.

LIVING HISTORY TREK

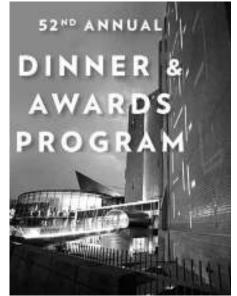
September 17, 9:30am Begins at the Molly Brown House Museum \$17/member, \$21/non-member

Join us on a stroll through Capitol Hill to learn about its storied history. Along the way you'll meet some of Mrs. Brown's neighbors, who will come to life and share stories from Denver's past.

CURTIS PARK HOME TOUR

September 24 and 25, 10am-3pm \$20/member, \$25/non-member

Presented with our friends in the Curtis Park Neighborhood, tour inside homes and notable sites of Denver's historically diverse Curtis Park where Queen Anne, Italianate, Eastlake, and Second Empire homes are interspersed with quaint cottages, duplexes and rowhouses built for the city's first golden age.



SAVE THE DATE! ANNUAL DINNER & AWARDS PROGRAM

October 13, 5-9pm • \$195/Individual, \$250 Patron, Sponsorships starting at \$3,000

Back at the Brown Palace for the 52nd time, Historic Denver will celebrate the individuals and preservation projects that make historic places succeed in the 21st century. The evening includes a popular cocktail hour, followed by a three-course dinner, award presentation, and live auction. Tickets and sponsorships now on sale.





EMPOWERED BY PLACE -WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING TOUR WITH DR. NICKI GONZALES

July 19 and August 16, 5:30pm

\$30/non-member, \$25/member

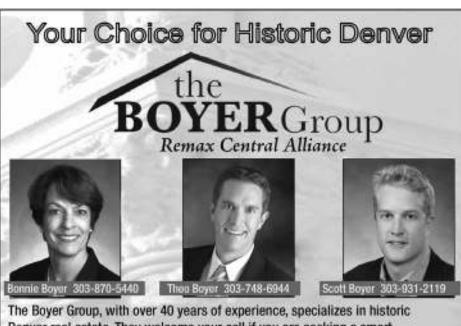
We're taking Empowered By Place on the road... Morrison Road! Informed by the city's recent Latino/Chicano Historic Context Study, Colorado State Historian Dr. Nicki Gonzales will explore the places, history, and community that make up the Westwood neighborhood. This 90-minute tour is presented in partnership with the Denver Architecture Foundation.

HEROINES IN THE 20TH CENTURY

September 8, 7pm • Virtual • Free, donations appreciated

Using Margaret Brown's own actions as the Titanic disaster unfolded, we'll discuss women as heroes, as warriors, as spies, as do-gooders. Or simply put, women doing what must be done in the face of crisis as they've always done. Bring an example of your favorite heroine, real or imagined!

The Salon Series is a FREE community conversation using the story of Margaret Brown to look back into history. Together we will discover how we have arrived at this moment and what we might do collectively to address issues. While this series is free, please register to attend.



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