

Pueblo Historic Preservation Commission (Public Meeting #2)

Project Title: Historic Downtown Pueblo Intensive Survey, Context, and Outreach, Part 2

Work Session: October 9, 2019, 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: City Hall, 3rd Floor Council Chambers, 1 City Hall Place, Pueblo CO 81003

Historic Preservation Commission Work Session (17-minute video by Ray Brown)

<https://youtu.be/MfjnS37ZOPI>

Presenters

Alan Lamberg, grant recipient contact

Senior Planner for City Planning & Community Development Department

Staff liaison to Historic Preservation Commission

During the Work Session of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), Alan states the purpose of this meeting, which is to update the members of the HPC and stakeholders and interested citizens about the project.

Alan introduces the members of the HPC, and invites them to share their vision for the project.

Laurel Campbell, HPC chair (2nd from left, center of dais)

Historian and preservation consultant for nominations of places to historic registers, and involved in the Charles Goodnight Barn Preservation Committee.

Proud to support this project. Reflected on prior support of historic districts in the Old Northside, Union Avenue, and Pitkin Place. “It’s about time” to learn about Historic Downtown because of changes over the years that have affected historic integrity. Historic Downtown Pueblo will be “a destination place for people who love history and preservation, our architecture is special, it all needs to be saved ...” And that this will help stave off further demolitions of historic buildings.

She added that understanding the notable architects and pioneering people who settled the Town of Pueblo, who lived and worked there, are just as important as saving these historic buildings.

Karen Knight, HPC vice-chair (left of center dais)

Expertise in interior design, with an associate degree in legal studies. Member of Old Historic Northside Organization Social Committee and Pueblo Realtors Association.

It’s important to have this kind of survey and context, and this will support preservation.

Anthony Perko, HPC secretary

Private attorney for Gradisar, Trechter, Ripperger & Roth. Member of Pueblo Historical Society and Preseren Glee Club.

Also supports this project, and agrees it's a long-time coming. Louis Sullivan once said that every city, large or small, "should have their own look, their own feeling and expression," and our downtown area is the best example of what our city has in this respect. The benefits of this project will go a long way to maintaining downtown's historic integrity for future generations.

Jason Falsetto

CTE Outreach Coordinator, Pueblo Community College. Member of Pueblo Heritage Museum and CSU Alumni Association.

A proud, 6th-generation Puebloan, his family has been here for almost 140 years. He is proud to see where we've come from and what we can preserve. "I'm excited to see what our citizens can learn and understand the importance of our buildings and their history. In order to preserve, promote, and innovate our historic Downtown – which I also agree to be one of the best areas preserved in the United States. So, hopefully we can rival the vibrancy of other downtowns who have been successful."

Gregory Howell

Creative economy consultant involved in several initiatives in Pueblo. Member of Pueblo Historic Preservation Commission, Board of the Arts Academy at Pueblo County High School, Southern Colorado Innovation Link (SCIL) Planning Committee.

"I've only been here for eight years, but my very first office was in the Old Court Room in the Historic Federal Building at 5th and Main. That magical building, designed by William Aiken, was my first entrée into the structures that exist throughout Downtown, Union Avenue, and other parts of the city." As a lecturer and advocate for creative economy, when he talks about art, culture, and architecture, he finds a magical confluence of adaptive re-use of historic buildings, support economic development and tourism.

Press Conference

Dumas, T. (2019, October 9.) "Pueblo adding buildings to historic downtown survey." KOAA News 5, Southern Colorado. (Video interview and photography by Carl Winder.) <https://www.koaa.com/news/covering-colorado/pueblo-adding-buildings-to-historic-downtown-survey>

During an interview, Alan emphasized that the knowledge gleaned from the surveys and narrative context will "help the property owners and businesses to market themselves and their buildings for economic development and revitalization."

Rodriguez, J. (2019, April). "Chile Highways, Main Streets and America's Loneliest Road." Thoughts on Home. *The Pueblo PULP Newsmagazine*.

Alan referenced Mr. Rodriguez's childhood memory at the Woolworth's on Main Street, and how Rodriguez names fellow Southern Coloradoan downtowns in Florence, Salida, Westcliff, La Veta, Canon City, which all endeavor to "value locals who are giving it a go downtown, by fighting for investments, being a local business first community, and creating the climate where these local businesses can create the moments of life that stay with you."

Call to Action: *Document the history of your Downtown and leverage that for tomorrow's revitalization.*

Audience

Bill Zwick, Capital Projects Manager, who is responsible for a great deal of historic restoration work on government facilities such as Memorial Hall.

Project Partners:

- Margaret Ward-Masias, Executive Director for Pueblo Downtown Association.
- Andrea DelaGarza, Special Projects Coordinator for Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority.

Public Meeting and Discussion

Reminder to members of the public

Anytime you want to share your thoughts or concerns about this project, please call 719-553-2259 or e-mail HPC@Pueblo.us

What does Historic Downtown Pueblo mean to you?

What does it look like? Sound like? Play like? In 2019? And in the future, 2030? This exercise was previously shared with members of the Pueblo Downtown Association, and today shared with HPC.

Consultant Update

Recently, Logan Simpson Design, Inc. Jennifer Levstik conveyed fifteen (15) draft surveys to Alan. Alan shared them with certain stakeholders from Pueblo Downtown Association, Pueblo County Archaeological & Historical Society, and Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority. All members of the HPC expressed interest in seeing the drafts. Comments will be conveyed to Alan and the Consultant by November 1st for the final revision.

Next Steps

Planning & Community Development Acting Director Scott Hobson inquired about next steps for the project. Alan outlined that the 15 surveys will be updated for final revision, also, concurrently, a draft narrative, as an addendum to the Downtown Historical Context, will focus on the commercial development from the Town of Pueblo to Downtown today.

Ethnography

Alan announced ethnographic research to enhance the project. With the support of the Roselawn Foundation and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Cultural Heritage Center, Ray Brown researched directories and U.S. Census from 1870 to outline and highlight a great deal of history about African-American or Black Puebloans.

This component may inspire others to share additional histories for any and all ethnicities associated with Downtown Pueblo. Alan is so far impressed with what appears to be an early ethnic-integrated society in the Town of Pueblo.

Comments

Members of the HPC inquired with Mr. Brown about background of his research into Black Puebloan histories. Much can be learned from his methods for other ethnicities who also worked for the steel mill, including Chinese, Japanese,

Commissioner Howell mentioned an exhibition he worked on from 2014 with the Steelworks Museum, about a 1920s immigration report that identified ethnic groups for all 10,000 workers. Black Americans numbered in the 400s. *Video:* <https://youtu.be/Vi2IU-v910g>

Alan mentioned that the National Parks Service by policy recommendation emphasized the importance of understanding ethnic histories, particularly historical underrepresented communities.

Commissioner Campbell stated that at one time there were 32 different newspapers in Pueblo, all with different languages.

Project Summary: Part 1, completed in 2017, includes an 84-page historic narrative of Downtown Pueblo, and surveys of buildings (26 intensive, 125 reconnaissance). Part 2 will intensively survey 15 more places, and update the historic narrative. The narrative will add histories for influential persons, events, and changes to buildings that were significant to the historic commercial development of downtown. We will cultivate an understanding of Historic Downtown Pueblo in ways important to property and business owners. We invite them to get involved by promoting ways historic preservation can be a tool for economic development.

This project paid for by a grant from the Colorado State Historical Fund, with support by the Pueblo City Council, Historic Pueblo, Inc., Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority, and the Pueblo Archeological & Historical Society.

Contact: Stay informed by visiting the project portal at <https://Pueblo.us/2264> or e-mail HPC@Pueblo.us or call 719-553-2259.