



April 10, 2012

National Landmarks Committee and Advisory Board
National Historic Landmarks Program
1849 C Street, NW (Org. 2280)
Washington, DC 20240

Dear National Landmarks Committee and Advisory Board:

The Civic Center Conservancy is a nonprofit organization through which local citizens, businesses and foundations have committed time, energy, expertise and resources to helping the City and County of Denver restore, enhance and activate downtown Denver's Civic Center Park.

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Located between the Renaissance Revival Colorado State Capitol and Georgian Revival Denver City and County Building, Civic Center Park is the Beaux Arts-inspired urban oasis – and nationally recognized public landscape – at the Denver Civic Center's core. Not only does Civic Center Park literally sit at the convergence of Colorado's civic, cultural, commercial and community realms – surrounded by one of the grandest architectural campuses in America – but it is one of the most complete and intact City Beautiful-era designs remaining today.

In the Conservancy's role as community-based stewards working to sustain Civic Center Park as the vibrant cultural asset its founders envisioned over a century ago, we enthusiastically support the nomination of the Denver Civic Center as a National Historic Landmark (NHL). Such a designation would honor Mayor Robert Speer's early-1900s vision that humanity could be uplifted through beautiful urban spaces. It would honor the succession of nationally-recognized architects, designers and period artists whose individual contributions to the Denver Civic Center have created a unified whole greater than the sum of its parts. And it would honor public and private investment in maintaining the historic infrastructure of our country.

In 2007, Denver voters approved a \$9.5 million bond initiative to restore Civic Center Park's historic structures and spaces. That work – largely completed in 2011 – has been augmented by the bond-funded 2011 restoration of the Denver City and County Building's exterior, the current restoration of the Colorado State Capitol's dome, and the current adaptive reuse and restoration of the historic Carnegie Library in Civic Center Park's northwestern corner. These public and private investments underscore the Denver Civic Center's importance in Colorado and beyond, affirming its historic and architectural significance in a national context.

The Civic Center Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 and became a local landmark district in 1976. Civic Center recently received national accolades for its revitalization and restoration (2011 City Parks Alliance Frontline Park designation; 2011 Masonry Construction Magazine Project of the Year), but this would notably (and fittingly) be the first National Historic Landmark designation in the City and County of Denver, Colorado.

Thank you for your consideration of the Denver Civic Center NHL nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindy Eichenbaum Lent". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Lindy Eichenbaum Lent
Executive Director

cc: Lysa Wegman-French, National Park Service: Intermountain Region, Denver
Emily Grumbling, Office of Congresswoman Diana DeGette
Annie Levinsky and John Olson, Historic Denver, Inc.
Lauri Dannemiller and Mark Bernstein, Denver Parks and Recreation