

Date October 26, 2015

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF LETTER OF SUPPORT AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE IOWA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE – DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOR HOSTING OF THE 2018 NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF PRESERVATION COMMISSION’S FORUM CONFERENCE**

**WHEREAS**, the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions is seeking bids to host the 2018 FORUM conference, which is a national conference for historic preservation commissioners, commission staff, elected officials, design professionals, developers and other interested individuals to attend to learn of innovating approaches to addressing challenging preservation issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) wishes to partner with the City of Des Moines in submitting a bid to host the 2018 FORUM conference, and DCA would be the lead agency should Des Moines be selected as the host city location; and

**WHEREAS**, a local match from the DCA and City would be required if Des Moines is selected as the host city location; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to fund the required local match, local partners are expected to provide a minimum of \$35,000 in local sponsorship, grants and unrestricted financial support and the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs has pledged \$10,000 to the effort and has identified a Certificate Local Government Grant program administered by the State that may be available to the City to provide an additional \$12,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the Preservation Iowa organization has pledged \$500 and volunteer support, and the Des Moines Neighbors, North of Grand Neighborhood Association and the Iowa Architectural Foundation have pledged volunteer support; and

**WHEREAS**, the effort to secure additional financial and volunteer support would continue should Des Moines be selected as the host city; and

**WHEREAS**, the match amount required of the City of Des Moines is estimated at \$5,000 to \$10,000, depending upon the fundraising efforts and DCA funding to be provided; and

**WHEREAS**, hosting the conference would allow the accomplishments and innovative strategies that have been used in Des Moines to be showcased to a national audience, and would provide an affordable opportunity for the Des Moines Historic Preservation Commission, City staff, elected officials, design professionals, developers and interested citizens to attend a national conference; and

**WHEREAS**, the event is expected to attract a minimum of 400 participants with the knowledge that the largest FORUM conference to date attracted nearly 800 participants, which would provide an economic benefit to Des Moines’ hotels and businesses.

**Date** October 26, 2015

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, as follows:

1. The City of Des Moines supports the bid to host the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions 2018 FORUM conference, with an anticipated City match of funding estimated at \$5,000 to \$10,000.
2. The Mayor is hereby directed to sign the attached letter of support on behalf of the City of Des Moines.
3. The City Manager or his designee is directed to submit the letter on behalf of the City, and to return all hosting or grant agreements related to the conference to City Council for approval.

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ to adopt.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Glenna K. Frank, Assistant City Attorney

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
GATTO				
GRAY				
HENSLEY				
MAHAFFEY				
MOORE				
TOTAL				
MOTION CARRIED			APPROVED	
_____ Mayor				

**CERTIFICATE**

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

\_\_\_\_\_ City Clerk

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

MARY COWNIE, DIRECTOR  
CHRIS KRAMER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR  
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

IOWA  
ARTS  
COUNCIL

PRODUCE  
IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL  
MUSEUM OF IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

STATE  
HISTORIC  
SITES

STATE HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
OFFICE OF IOWA

IOWA  
HISTORICAL  
FOUNDATION

October 1, 2015

Ms. Paige Pollard, Executive Director  
National Alliance of Preservation Commissions  
208 East Plume Street, Suite 327  
Norfolk, VA 23510

Dear Ms. Pollard:


The Department of Cultural Affairs and the State Historic Preservation Office are excited about the possibility of hosting the 2018 FORUM in Des Moines.

Our staff has much to offer in terms of organizational abilities and a commitment to excellent training opportunities for the preservation community. Our 2015 statewide conference was our most successful and best attended preservation conference to date with 350 attendees who came to learn about historic plaster, tax credits, preserving community character and other preservation topics. Our 2018 FORUM proposal speaks to our other strengths—among them having the largest Certified Local Government program in the nation, a successful historic tax credit program and an exceptional partner in the city of Des Moines.

The Department of Cultural Affairs will commit \$10,000 towards the FORUM conference if Des Moines is selected. In addition, we plan to make the 2018 FORUM our statewide preservation conference and will promote this educational opportunity to Iowa's CLGs. Iowa's statewide conference is traditionally supported by a Certified Local Government grant in the range of about \$12,000. We will work with the city of Des Moines to apply for that funding during our next grant round. Of course, we will also provide staff support in planning and coordinating the FORUM conference to insure its success for your organization and our own preservation program.

Thank you for your consideration of Des Moines as a site for the 2018 FORUM.

Sincerely,

  
Mary Tiffany Cownie  
Director  
Department of Cultural Affairs

*"The mission of the North of Grand Neighborhood Association is to ensure that existing and projected infrastructure systems are managed or developed so they enhance the physical, visual and spatial qualities of the neighborhood – promoting a healthy climate for area businesses, and public and private properties."*



Oct. 15, 2015

Dear NAPC Site Selection Committee members,

We would be honored if you selected Iowa's Capital City -- Des Moines for your 2018 National Alliance of Preservation Commission's Forum location. If chosen, North of Grand Neighborhood will lead one of the proposed field sessions, as we did for the 2011 National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Main Street Conference (see attached brochure). North of Grand partnered with Des Moines Bicycle Collective on "Tour d'Ingersoll," which highlighted the bike-sharing program, B-Cycle, while touring through historic, mixed-use neighborhoods a few miles west of the main conference site.

Forum attendees in 2018 will have a similar experience. We will share some of the fascinating stories and piece together a glimpse of the early development of Des Moines, the effects of which can still be seen today. We are proud that our affordable, tree-lined neighborhood remains popular in 2015 due to its close proximity to shops, restaurants, the bus line, well-established churches, quality schools and historic architecture. Thank you for considering Des Moines and hope to see you on two wheels in 2018!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Colleen Kinney".

Colleen Kinney  
North of Grand Neighborhood Association President  
H: 515-664-9183  
P.O. Box 12027  
Des Moines, IA 50312  
northofgrandpresident@gmail.com

# National Alliance of Preservation Commissions FORUM 2018

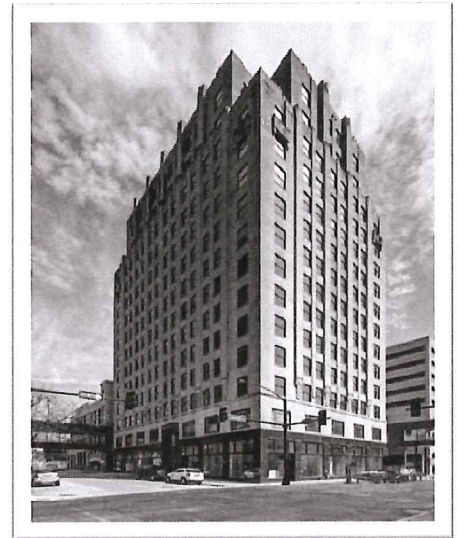
The Iowa State Historic Preservation Office/Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City of Des Moines, proposes to bid for the 2018 National Alliance of Preservation Commissions' FORUM conference. FORUM is a national conference and its goal is to highlight innovative approaches to challenging local preservation issues and to provide an interactive learning environment for historic preservation commissioners, commission staff, elected officials, design professionals, developers, and other preservation professionals and volunteers.

Previous FORUMs have been held in:

- Denver
- Pittsburgh
- San Antonio
- Indianapolis
- Baltimore
- New Orleans
- Grand Rapids
- Norfolk
- Philadelphia
- Mobile (2016)

Des Moines has a unique preservation story to share with a national audience:

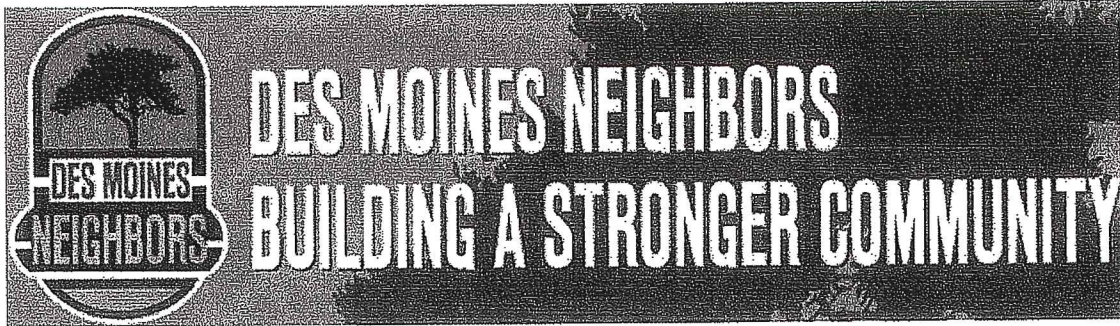
- Striking a balance between historic preservation and new development
- The transformation of downtown where 80,000 people now work and live, many in rehabilitated historic buildings
- The revitalization of the Historic East Village
- Innovative public/private partnerships to preserve some of Des Moines' most historically significant buildings (World Food Prize and Des Moines Social Club)
- Preservation of important buildings of the recent past (American Republic and Plymouth Place)
- A longstanding and robust effort to preserve and revitalize historic neighborhoods



Des Moines Building (Nelson Construction)

Benefits of bringing the national FORUM to Des Moines:

- An opportunity to showcase Des Moines' accomplishments and innovative strategies in historic preservation and economic development
- Des Moines Historic Preservation Commission, city staff, design professionals, developers and local preservationists will be able to attend a national preservation conference without traveling and at minimal cost (reduced registration and/or complimentary registration for those who volunteer or are sponsors)
- Economic benefit: the largest FORUM attracted nearly 800 participants and filled approximately 1000 hotel room nights



October 3, 2015

Ms. Paige Pollard  
Executive Director  
National Alliance of Preservation Commissions  
208 East Plume Street, Suite 327  
Norfolk, Virginia 23510

Dear Ms. Pollard:

I am writing as President of Des Moines Neighbors to express my organization's full support of Des Moines's bid to host the 2018 FORUM.

Des Moines Neighbors is a 15-year old coalition of 56 neighborhood groups in the city of Des Moines. The idea of neighborhood organization and collaboration in Des Moines dates back to the 1920s when the Center-Soll neighborhood club was established and heralded as a national model by *Better Homes & Gardens* magazine. Des Moines Neighbors builds on the Center-Soll idea by providing a forum for leaders to come together to address problems through discussion and advocacy.

Members of our present-day coalition include the historic Sherman Hill, Owl's Head, North of Grand and River Bend neighborhoods where great strides have been made in historic preservation over the past forty decades. Collectively, we see preservation as an important tool to preserve the quality and livability of our city's neighborhoods.

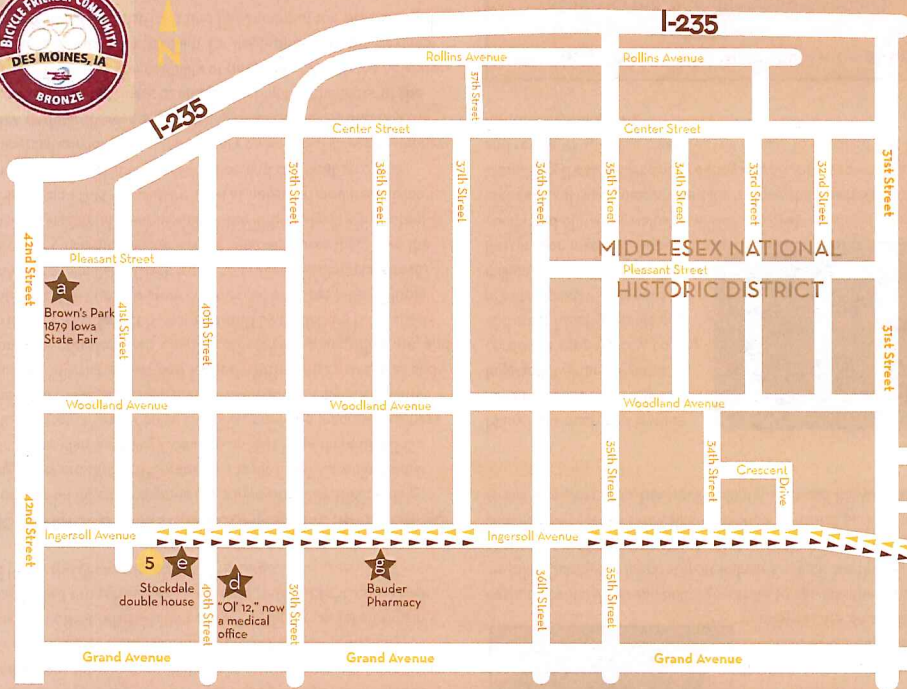
If Des Moines is selected to host the 2018 FORUM, our organization pledges to assist with planning and coordination and will contribute volunteers to the conference.

Thank you for your consideration of our great city of neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

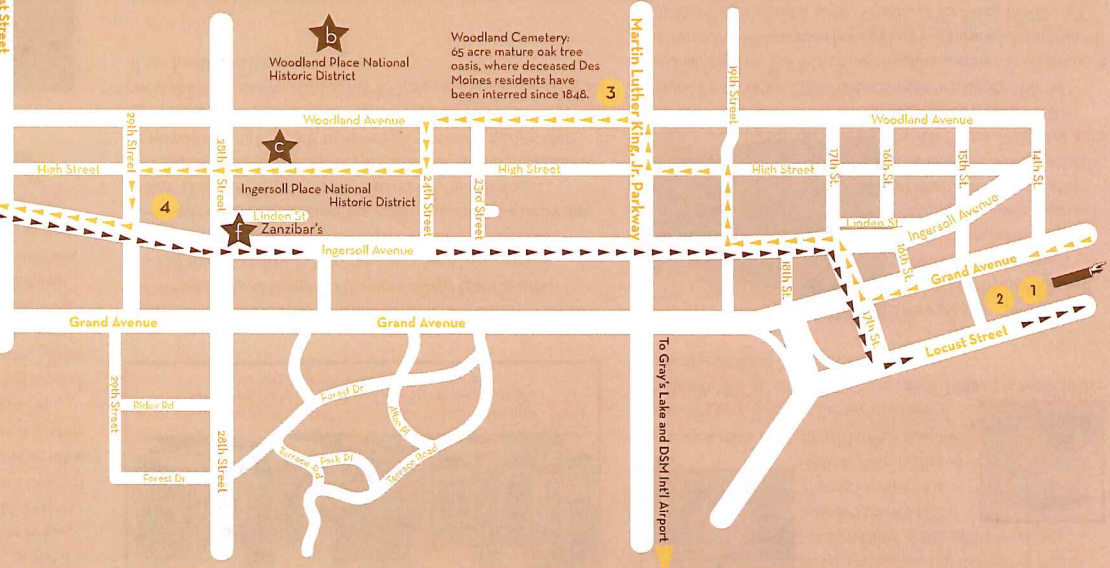
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'SEAN BAGNIEWSKI'.

Sean Bagniewski  
Des Moines Neighbors President



## Where are we going?

- 1 Meet on the Lower Level of the Polk County Convention Complex. Sign waivers, check out helmets, walk as a group to B-Cycle kiosk.
- 2 Presentation of B-Cycle bike sharing program at Des Moines Bicycle Collective, 617 Grand Avenue.
- 3 Stop at Woodland Cemetery. Discussion of Nat'l Historic Districts (Woodland Place, Ingersoll Place, Middlesex).
- 4 Lunch at Palmer's Deli, 2843 Ingersoll. Learn about Complete Streets, zoning and hear from local merchants.
- 5 Stop at Plymouth Place Peace Park, 4016 Ingersoll Ave. to sample homemade ice cream from Bauder Pharmacy, information on Ol' 12, and Stockdale Double House, 4018 Ingersoll (named one of Preservation Iowa's Most Endangered Properties 2011).



### DES MOINES IS BUILDING A BIKEABLE COMMUNITY MANY WAYS:

Developing the Bicycle and Trail Master plan: [www.iowabicyclecoalition.org](http://www.iowabicyclecoalition.org)

In 2011, Des Moines was named a Bronze level bike-friendly community by the League of American Bicyclists.

In Sept. 2010, Des Moines became the 5th city in America to implement a bike sharing project: Des Moines B-Cycle: <http://desmoines.bicycle.com>

The Des Moines Bicycle Collective refurbishes used bikes, offers repair classes, conducts safety outreach, produces trail maps and promotes cycling as a fun, healthy, sustainable way to get around town: [www.dsmbikecollective.org](http://www.dsmbikecollective.org)

The Mayor's Annual Bike Ride for Trails is a popular Spring event, raising more than \$100,000 for trails.

The 37th Annual RAGBRAI (Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa) will be July 24-30, 2011. It is the oldest, largest and longest bike touring event in the world.

In 2010, Ingersoll Avenue went on a "road diet," scaling down from 4 lanes to 2, including bike lanes, in an effort to improve safety and traffic calming.

*"When I see an adult on a bicycle, I do not despair for the future of the human race." --H.G. Wells*

## Helmets Off To...

GUIDES: Matt Coen, DM Mayor Frank Cownie, Gary Fox, Ted Irvine, Colleen Kinney, Mike Ludwig, Julie McGuire, Mindy Moore (invited), Carl Voss and Laura Zimmerman.

AND: Patti Williams, Dennis Johnson, Palmer's Deli, Des Moines Bicycle Collective, B-Cycle, Trek, The State Historical Society of Iowa, Bauder Pharmacy, GraphicsFairy.com, Google Maps, Stephanie Jewell, Westside Chamber, Ingersoll Business Association, North of Grand and Woodland Place Neighborhood Associations, Polk County Assessor's Office, City of Des Moines Parks & Recreation, Plan & Zoning, Traffic, Fire and Public Library staff, Des Moines Rehabber's Club, The Des Moines Historical Society, Jim Jacobsen, Sarah Oltrogge, Leslie Albrecht, Tim Reinders, Terry Poe Buschkamp, Michael Wagler, Friends of the Stockdale Double House, Preservation Iowa, Plymouth Congregational Church, Ralph H. Deets Historical Museum, Teri Toye, Dr. Brenton Koch and Jeff Carithers.

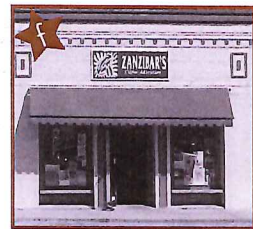
## Bike Safety 101

Obey all traffic rules. Watch for uneven road surfaces. Ride together. In bike lane, ride single file. If no bike lane, "take the lane," two riders side-by-side. Leave adequate space while passing parked cars. Ride with the traffic. Stay to the right. Be a defensive biker. No cell phones please. Use proper hand signals when turning. Wear comfortable shoes; appropriate clothing. Also bring a water bottle, ID, emergency contact information. Helmets available at check-in.



**COMPLETE STREETS:** Ingersoll Avenue is an important commuter east-west route, serving 12,000-17,000 vehicles daily. Traffic engineer Gary Fox will ride with us today, sharing stories about Ingersoll's "road diet" to improve safety and traffic calming. Livable Streets Coalition sums it up well: "The goal of traffic calming is to encourage multiple types of transportation (car, bike, walk, bus) and improve the safety and livability of a neighborhood for all users. What sometimes gets overlooked is that safe, pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods are also the types of places where people want to shop, dine out and own a home. In short, traffic calming improves the economic bottom line for local businesses." [www.completestreets.org](http://www.completestreets.org)

**INVESTING IN INGERSOLL:** Ingersoll Avenue is a mixed-use neighborhood business district, an ideal Main Street community, in that it is a place "of shared memory where people still come together to live,



work, and play." Establishments like Zanzibar's, Palmer's Deli and Bauder Pharmacy are what urban sociologist Ray Oldenburg refers to as great "third places," in contrast to "the first and second places of home and work." These third places are within walking distance, where customers and employees are on a first-name

basis, and where you can find a good bite to eat—another reason why we bike! During our lunch stop at Palmer's, check out the revitalized section from 28th to 31st streets. Note updated decorative lighting, widened pedestrian sidewalks, expanded on-street parking, new street trees, benches, bike racks, planter urns and flower beds. [www.ingersollave.com](http://www.ingersollave.com)

Many individuals and leaders have made major investments in Ingersoll Avenue. Generous corporate support, city, county and state funding, grants and private donations (about \$3.4 million) funded the first phase of Restoration Ingersoll. Ingersoll is comprised of many invaluable and irreplaceable historic, cultural and architectural resources. Stakeholders along the Ingersoll corridor are identifying these assets and creating opportunities to engage visitors and residents so these treasures will remain to enhance Des Moines for future generations.



**North of Grand Neighborhood Association on the Web at:**  
<http://northofgrandneighborhood.org>



**HISTORY:** Ingersoll Avenue is named for Ebenezer Jared Ingersoll (1828-1901), bank and insurance executive and farmer, who raised thoroughbred stock. Historian Kaye Sanchez writes that Ingersoll was a "person of athletic build, nervous lymphatic temperament, brusque and plain of speech, often using vigorous swear words, but his purse was always open to people in need."



Early records describe the Iowa State Fair held at Brown's Park on the western edge of Ingersoll's business district (39th to 42nd Streets) starting in 1879. In 1886, the Fair moved to its present location on the east side of Des Moines. The safe, affordable, tree-lined neighborhoods along Ingersoll remain popular today due to their close proximity to shops, restaurants, the bus line, well-established churches, quality schools and historic architecture. As we pedal along Ingersoll, try to imagine residents back in 1890 commuting via the Des Moines Rapid Transit dummy line. It probably ran at about the same speed as our B-Cycles and not at the expense of our health and the environment.



Photo courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines. Not to be reproduced or used without permission or credit. 1890 SHSI-DM Ashby Collection, 1987-4.140

**ARCHITECTURE:** There is great pride in the historic neighborhoods along Ingersoll. It is what Smart Growth advocates describe as a "sense of place." Today you will see how the neighborhood is marked with numerous historically significant groupings of bungalows and foursquare houses (North of Grand Action Plan, 1998, p. 4). We'll ride by three National Historic Districts: Ingersoll Place, Woodland Place and Middlesex. You can read more about Des Moines' Historic Districts at <http://renovatedsm.com>.

The Mahnke House is a 1909 two-story Prairie Style home at 2707 High Street that is listed individually on the National Register. The former fire station No. 12, located at 535 40th Street, was awarded the 1994 Des Moines Excellence in Historic Preservation in the commercial/ institutional exterior adaptive reuse category. If not for the work of several individuals, "Ol' 12" would have been razed. Today it is home to the medical practice of Dr. Brenton Koch.

There are high costs involved when properties are allowed to deteriorate (vandalism, crime, foreclosures, loss of property tax revenues, loss of architectural heritage, etc.). One example is the Stockdale Double House, located at 4018 Ingersoll Ave. (shown in this 1926 photo). In 2009, Iowa's State Historic Preservation Office determined it was eligible for the National Register. The fate of the structure is currently uncertain. It was named to Preservation Iowa's Most Endangered Properties of 2011. Read more about it on the Friends of the Stockdale Double House's Facebook page.

**THANK YOU!**





401 Main Street, Suite 5 Keokuk, Iowa 52632  
Phone: (319) 526 8474 Fax: (319) 526 8963  
[www.preservationiowa.org](http://www.preservationiowa.org)

October 14, 2015

Ms. Paige Pollard  
Executive Director  
National Alliance of Preservation Commissions  
208 East Plume Street, Suite 327  
Norfolk, Virginia 23510

Dear Ms. Pollard,

I am writing as the President of Preservation Iowa to express our strong support for Des Moines's bid to host NACP's 2018 FORUM.

Preservation Iowa is a statewide membership organization that builds partnerships to preserve Iowa's historic resources. Since our founding in 1991, we have partnered with the State Historic Preservation Office on such diverse initiatives as disaster relief following Iowa's massive 2008 flood, the preservation of country schools and the Hollywood in the Heartland website. We accomplish our work through advocacy and education and to this end our organization has been a sponsor of Iowa's statewide historic preservation conference each year.

If Des Moines is selected, Preservation Iowa will provide volunteers to assist with the planning and execution of the conference. We would also promote the conference opportunity to our membership. In addition, my board has authorized me to pledge a \$500 contribution to the conference if Des Moines is selected.

We welcome the opportunity to share Iowa's preservation ethic with your membership.

Sincerely,

---

Kevin Kuckleman  
President, Preservation Iowa

**Our mission is to build partnerships that enhance our economic and cultural future through the preservation of Iowa's historic resources.**



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October 20, 2015

Ms. Paige Pollard  
Executive Director  
National Alliance of Preservation Commissions  
208 East Plume Street, Suite 327  
Norfolk, Virginia 23510

Dear Ms. Pollard,

As the Executive Director of the Iowa Architectural Foundation, it is my pleasure to let you know of our organization's enthusiastic support of Des Moines' proposal to host the 2018 FORUM.

Founded in 1989, the Iowa Architectural Foundation (IAF) is the only charitable organization in the state to promote awareness and appreciation of architecture and design in Iowa. IAF engages the public through youth and adult education, community design charrettes, and public awareness programs.

As part of our public awareness initiative, we lead guided tours of the Historic East Village and downtown Des Moines. Beginning in the early twentieth century, Des Moines clients began commissioning nationally renowned architects to design buildings to complement those designed by local firms. Our architectural tours include a number of historic buildings by Iowa's prolific and leading firm, Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson, as well as those by Daniel Burnham, Mies van der Rohe, Skidmore Owings & Merrill, and David Chipperfield. This tradition of architectural excellence continues with the recent announcement of a new building by Renzo Piano for downtown Des Moines (completion early 2018). The IAF tours are led by design professionals who are passionate about Des Moines' architecture and the exceptional preservation work being done in the city. We would be pleased to offer architectural tours for FORUM participants and to help promote the conference if Des Moines is selected.

Thank you for considering Des Moines as a site for the 2018 FORUM.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carolyn Hepperly'.

Carolyn J. Hepperly  
Executive Director  
Iowa Architectural Foundation

400 Locust Street  
Suite 100  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
iowaarchfoundation.org  
515.244.1888  
515.244.5347 (fax)



# DES MOINES REHABBERS CLUB

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Paige Pollard  
Executive Director  
National Alliance of Preservation Commissions  
208 East Plume Street, Suite 327  
Norfolk, Virginia 23510

October 22, 2015

Dear Ms. Pollard,

I am writing as the President of the Des Moines Rehabbers Club to express our commitment to supporting Des Moines' bid to host NAPC's 2018 FORUM.

The Des Moines Rehabbers Club promotes neighborhood revitalization and restoration of Des Moines' unique building stock by informing, educating, inspiring, and supporting residents in all phases of renovation and maintenance. We also serve as a strong voice of advocacy for preserving Des Moines' historically significant buildings as a contributing factor to what makes Des Moines such a great place to live and work. Our monthly meetings that feature project tours, skills workshops, and education on best practices are always free and open to the public. The annual Most Endangered Buildings list generates discussion and coordination among residents and interest groups throughout the city to channel resources toward saving some of our most vulnerable buildings. Through this work we've helped empower homeowners and commercial building owners by making preservation fun and accessible.

The Des Moines Rehabbers Club will commit to providing volunteers for the planning process and to assist throughout the conference. We would be happy to promote the conference to our membership and encourage participation at every level. Our board has authorized a pledge of \$200 toward the conference if Des Moines is selected.

I think you'll find the people of Iowa eager to participate in the national conversation about historic preservation. On behalf of the Des Moines Rehabbers Club, I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelli Lydon  
President, Des Moines Rehabbers Club



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TERRY E. BRANSTAD  
GOVERNOR

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

KIM REYNOLDS  
LT. GOVERNOR

October 15, 2015

Ms. Paige Pollard, Executive Director  
National Alliance of Preservation Commissions  
208 East Plume Street, Suite 327  
Norfolk, VA 23510

Dear Ms. Pollard:

I am writing in support of Des Moines's bid to host the 2018 FORUM. As our capital city with a rich heritage and robust preservation program, Des Moines is well-suited to host this national preservation conference.

Moreover, I am proud that Iowa is a leader in many aspects of historic preservation. We have the largest Certified Local Government program in the country with more than 100 city and county governments participating. These local historic preservation commissions have initiated a variety of projects including systematic countywide surveys of rural resources, educational workshops, and archaeological investigations of Native American resources.

Iowa's historic tax credit program, since its inception in 2001, has been pivotal in the historic rehabilitation of buildings totaling \$1 billion throughout the state. From the E.E. Warren Opera House-- a National Trust award winning project in Greenfield (population 1,900) to the historic rehabilitation of large office buildings in downtown Des Moines, this program has had a positive impact on the preservation of our state's heritage and quality of life.

Iowa's Main Street program, composed of 53 Main Street communities, is recognized as one of the strongest in the country. As evidence of the success of this program, nine Iowa main streets have received the National Main Street award.

We welcome the opportunity to share our story with the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions. Thank you for your consideration of Des Moines as a site for the 2018 FORUM.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry E. Branstad".

Terry E. Branstad  
Governor of Iowa



Dear Ms. Pollard,

I am writing to express the River Bend Neighborhood Association's enthusiastic support of Des Moines's bid to host the 2018 FORUM.

The River Bend neighborhood is located north of downtown and was developed as a late nineteenth century street car suburb. River Bend is composed of seven different National Historic districts and we are proud that in 2012 a large portion of our neighborhood was designated a local historic district with design review requirements. Demographically, our neighborhood is young (half the population is under the age of 30) and more culturally diverse than the rest of the city. Thirty percent of the population in River Bend is Latino, 24% African American, 10% Asian, and 14% Caucasian.

We are working proactively to preserve the historic quality of our neighborhood and its other great asset—its diversity. We have partnered with several developers on preservation projects such as the Franklin Apartments to provide quality, affordable housing. Trinity United Methodist Church is both a model preservation project and an inclusive community that cares about the integration of faith and social justice. We also hold an annual historic home tour and have recently completed a neighborhood plan in cooperation with Iowa State University design students. Finally, we partner with the Sixth Avenue Corridor (an Urban Main Street) to make our commercial center as vibrant as the rest of our neighborhood.

River Bend has a great story to tell, and if Des Moines is selected, our organization pledges to assist with planning tour(s) of our neighborhood and/or participating in a session on the challenges and opportunities of preservation in an inner city neighborhood. We will also contribute volunteers to the conference.

Thank you for your consideration of Des Moines! You'll find us very friendly, culturally diverse and energetic!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Breanne Barnum". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Breanne Barnum

President, River Bend Neighborhood Association