

La Alma Lincoln Park  
Registered Neighborhood Association

Subject: Letter of Support for the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District

January 20, 2021

To: Landmarks Preservation Commission, 201 West Colfax, Dept. 205, Denver, CO 80202

La Alma Lincoln Park is one of Denver's oldest residential neighborhoods and embodies early Colorado and Denver history and was at the heart of the Chicano Movement of the 1960s and 1970s. The neighborhood demonstrates the close connection between place and the people, made tangible by the central role of the Park in the community's life and the surviving structures set close together, diverse in their architectural styles yet maintaining a consistent pattern for over 150 years.

Over the last few years, We have been working with other community members on a project to document the neighborhood's history and buildings and to seek strategies to protect and honor the unique historic context and cultural heritage of the neighborhood, from its settling in the 1870s to its role in fostering Denver's Chicano movement. The Neighborhood Association has hosted Walking Tours and a number of community meetings since 2017 to shape the current proposal to create the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District for the blocks just east of the Park between Mariposa and Kalamath, a designation that includes flexible design guidelines to protect the aspects that make the neighborhood unique, and convey its story.

The La Alma Lincoln Neighborhood Association supports the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District and we hope you will too as it moves through the city process.

Sincerely,

Christine Sprague, President  
La Alma/Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association  
[lincolnparkneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:lincolnparkneighbors@gmail.com)

LALP is a registered neighborhood organization. We strive to represent the interests of and build relationships between our ~6600 residents as well as business owners, students, and community stakeholders, and to share the pride in our sense of place. Our neighborhood extends from Colfax to W 6th Ave and the Platte river (I-25) to Speer Boulevard.

cc: Shannon Stage, Historic Denver



"La Alma" Emanuel Martinez 1978

*La Alma Neighborhood  
Association*

P.O. Box 40540  
Denver, CO 80204  
(303) 437-5531

January 20, 2021

Landmark Preservation  
201 West Colfax  
Dept 205  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commission,

La Alma Lincoln Park is one of Denver's oldest residential neighborhoods and embodies early Colorado and Denver history and was at the heart of the Chicano Movement of the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. The neighborhood demonstrates the close connection between place and time with the people, made tangible by the central role of the Park in the community's life and the surviving structures set close together, diverse in their architectural styles yet maintaining a consistent pattern for 150 years.

Over the last few years, I have been working with other community members on a project to document the neighborhood's history and buildings and to seek strategies to protect and honor the unique historic context and cultural heritage of the neighborhood, from its settling in the 1870s to its role in fostering Denver's Chicana/o Movement. This movement sparked the Civil Rights Movement in Colorado. The project team has hosted Walking Tours and a number of community meetings since 2017 to shape the current proposal to create the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District for the blocks just east of the Park between Mariposa and Kalamath, a designation that includes flexible design guidelines to protect the aspects that make the neighborhood unique, and convey its story.

Most of our members as young people gave so much to ensure equality and justice to the Chicana/os, not only in West Denver; but, all through Colorado. It was our blood, sweat and tears that brought about societal change. The West Side's struggles had a profound impact on these young people. They have taken 'the soul of the West Side's struggles to further issues of equality and justice.

La Alma Neighborhood Association support the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District and hope you will also as it moves through the city process.

Sincerely,

Helen Giron-Mushfiq, MA  
President - La Alma Neighborhood Association

*La Alma Neighborhood Association's Mission is to provide a forum for Westside residents, business owners, and interested parties that are committed to maintaining the Westside as a low density, family-oriented neighborhood and to advocate for, promote and support the community's cultural, historical and environmental integrity.*

January 20, 2021

Landmark Preservation  
201 West Colfax  
Dept 205  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commission,

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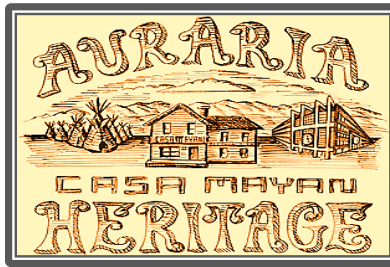
La Alma Neighborhood Association support the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District and hope you will also as it moves through the city process.

Sincerely,



Patricia Montoya  
La Alma Neighborhood Association





*Making History Relevant*™

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**Landmark Preservation  
201 West Colfax  
Dept 205  
Denver, CO 80202**

**Subject: La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District. April 28,2021**

Dear Landmark Preservation Commission,

This letter is to inform you that on behalf of the *Gonzalez Family of Auraria, Displaced Aurarians*, and our Aurarian Community & Historical Preservation Organizations; ***Auraria Historical Advocacy*** and ***Auraria & Casa Mayan Heritage***, we strongly support the approval of the La Alma/ Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District.

On September 30 2019, City Council unanimously supported updates to the designation criteria to be more inclusive of Cultural Heritage. This was a historic and long overdue addition. The La Alma/ Lincoln Park district is one of Denver's oldest residential neighborhoods covering homes from 1873-1889 and embodies early Colorado and Denver History.

The new criteria included these three cultural aspects:

1. A Cultural Era allowing Understanding - How the Site was used by Past Generations.
2. Physical Attributes of a Neighborhood, Community, City that is a Source of Pride/ Cultural Understanding;
3. Associations with Social Movements, Institutions, Growth Change Patterns that Contributed Significantly to the Culture of the Neighborhood, Community, City, State, or Nation.

From 1918 to 1974 my family lived in Auraria (West of Cherry Creek known as the "Westside" which includes La Alma & Baker.) They were the last family to be displaced by Denver Urban Renewal Authority. Stories I and other families have gathered over the decades will now be understood more accurately with this district.

We believe approval of this New District;

- is critical in understanding many important aspects of American Urban History and applicable to our future development of **Auraria Campus**.
- will be a catalyst to better educate our urban communities on the past, present and futures issues of *Planning, Design, Gentrification, Preservations, Sustainability*, and the *human stories* associated with *Culture Growth* and *Justice*.

## Physical Linkage to Adjacent Districts

This new district will create a great link between Denver's first and third Districts acting as a "Gateway" and fulfilling the great urban design model envisioned fifty years ago.

1. **Larimer Square Historic District: 1971**
2. Humboldt Street Historic District: 1972 (1895-1920 25 houses 5 Acres)
3. **Ninth Street Historic District: 1973 (1872-1906)**

For many years **Auraria & Casa Mayan Heritage** historians have been giving walking tours to the public to share the community's rich history. Not only will the District preserve the cultural aspects of the 1960's-80's Chicano Civil Rights movement but will include their prior community history from the 1900's- 50's.

## Links to Denver's Minority History

**Cycle of Life** Ceremonials & Processionals of the Westside took place from Mariposa down Ninth to Lawrence to St. Cajetan. Built in 1924, with 700 parishioners the church was part of the heart of the Westside Mexican American culture. These cultural expressions connected La Alma with Auraria linking together Schools, Churches, Business and Cultural Centers like **Casa Mayan (1933-1974)**.

### **Mutualistas**

The District covers Mutualistas -Community-Based Mutual Aid Societies created by Mexican Immigrants providing Immigrants Cultural Activities, Education, Health Care, Legal Protection and Advocacy, and Anti-defamation activities.

### **Civil Rights**

Important political decisions were made in this district and expressed through Art, Cultural and Legal Action, and Social Justice Marches. This preserved district will help teach the public and community student various aspects of Mexican America culture, Urban Planning, Geography, Political Science, and Urban Sustainability.

### **Future Benefits**

This new district can promote the continued engagement of students, faculty, visitors, Displaced Aurarians and all interested community stakeholders. They will come to engage with each other and this work discussing many themes and concepts of Denver Urban and Minority History. Casa Mayan House built in 1872, located on the Ninth Street Historic Park on the Auraria Campus will offer the Historic Landmark as a new Heritage Museum covering Westside cultural history and restoring cultural walks. We will also work on future urban design linkages through Art, Greenbelts and Gathering Spaces.

Thank you for your consideration,

*Gregorio Gonzalez Alcaro*

**Historian & Education Director**

**Urban Design & Community Outreach**

Office: 303 -477-9220 Email: [grgalcaro@aol.com](mailto:grgalcaro@aol.com) [www.acmh.cfsites.com](http://www.acmh.cfsites.com)

## Auraria & Casa Mayan Heritage

Preserving History & Culture of Pre-Campus Auraria & Casa Mayan House

Through: *Research, Tours, Workshops, Exhibits, Multimedia Art Events and Urban Design.*

Using the Casa Mayan Spirit of: *Equality, Generosity, Hospitality, Creativity, Encouragement & Bridge Building.*

~ Est. 2006 – 501 c (3) Minority Grassroots, Community, Arts & Humanities Historic Preservation Organization. ~



## CHICANA/O MURALS OF COLORADO PROJECT

February 25, 2021

Landmark Preservation  
201 West Colfax  
Dept 205  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commission,

Over the last ten years, I have been working with other community members and artists on a project to protect, preserve, and promote the visual heritage of Chicano/a murals in Colorado. The Lincoln/La Alma neighborhood is the birthplace of the Chicano/a mural movement initiated by my father Emanuel Martinez in 1969. With the help of the community and students, La Alma park was gradually transformed into a community space where families listened to music, gathered to have picnics, and children swam in the swimming pool. Despite the many hardships endured by many during the early years of the Civil Rights Movement, the community maintained La Alma as a safe space for youth and families.

For over fifty years Chicano/a muralists have continued to create murals at or near La Alma park. These murals not only transformed spaces but also functioned as visual educators, creating graphic, bold textbooks on walls to fill a void in the public education curriculum that ignored the important role People of Color played in the historical narrative of this state and country. These complex mural narratives gave La Alma residents a sense of place, celebrated their self-identity, and raised awareness of their continuing struggle. Sadly, many of these earlier murals have been destroyed and defaced, and their messages have been forgotten or deemed unimportant to new residence and communities. But some still remain that remind us who lived here before and the historical events that created Colorado's unique character.

Lincoln/La Alma Park is one of Denver's oldest residential neighborhoods and one of the few neighborhoods left in Denver that still embodies traces of the Chicano Movement of the 1960s and 1970s. The neighborhood and murals demonstrates the close connection between place and the people, made tangible by the central role of La Alma park in the community's life.

I and the Chicano/a Murals of Colorado Project support the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District and hope you will too as it moves through the city process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucha Martínez de Luna'.

Lucha Martínez de Luna  
Director of the CMCP

Tel. 720-469-1834  
aztin@live.com  
<https://chicanomuralsofcolorado.com/>



03/07/2021

Landmark Preservation  
201 West Colfax  
Dept 205  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commission,

Over the last 500 years colonizers, conquistadors, white speculators, developers, and government officials have used unfair lending practices, official policy, explicit racism and intentional marginalization to undermine the efficacy of poor people and communities of color. In a new era of gentrification, the ongoing lessons that communities of color provide are more needed than ever. Together, we resist. We care for each other. We use culture and community building to create and to thrive. For this reason, it is essential that we protect the living culture of La Alma and Lincoln Park.

Historic Denver has come together with neighborhood residents, community institutions and representatives of the city to document the history and buildings of La Alma and Lincoln Park, to organize, to protect and to honor the unique history and cultural heritage of the neighborhood. Throughout the project, Su Teatro has served as a site for meetings and a convener of panels, allowing participants to collectively explore the meaning the Westside holds for its residents, especially as an important stronghold for Chicanos who once called the neighborhood home.

I personally worked with Historic Denver to collect stories from former residents and community leaders and assisted in writing a history, focusing on the importance of the neighborhood during the Chicano Movement. Many individuals have contributed to this project: the project team has hosted Walking Tours and a number of community meetings since 2017 to shape the current proposal to create the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District for the blocks just east of the Park between Mariposa and Kalamath, a designation that includes flexible design guidelines to protect the aspects that make the neighborhood unique and convey its story.

The Westside is the cradle of Denver's Mexican American community, dating back to the discovery of gold on the banks of the Cherry Creek at "Mexican Diggings" in 1858. In the 1970s and 1980s, the population of the neighborhood was 80 percent Chicano. The Westside spawned artists, activists, and community leaders, community pride and sense of place. The impact of Chicanos with roots in the Westside is apparent across the city in civic institutions, and service organizations. The neighborhood has known discrimination, and displacement, community organizing and civic engagement.

Gentrification is steamrolling the Northside and Five Points and the Elyria, Swansea and Globeville neighborhoods are threatened with displacement by the expansion of 1-70. But the Westside nonetheless maintains pockets of affordable housing, a venerable history, and a vibrant culture. The Westside is hanging on, but it is vulnerable.

Su Teatro Cultural and Performing Arts Center was born in the Westside in 1972, inspired by a class taught in Chicano Teatro at CU-Denver, at what was then, the newly minted Auraria Campus, a complex designed to serve students of color, while ironically displacing the tight-knit Chicano community of Auraria. When Su Teatro purchased the Denver Civic Theater in 2010 and returned to the neighborhood, we regarded the move as an important reclamation of territory. We see ourselves as an oasis for Chicanos in the heart of the city. As long as we remain, Chicanos will always have a place to return to, Chicanos will always have a home. As we collectively seek new solutions for the problem of gentrification, we must also shift our understanding of the people we are displacing and the cultures and histories we are erasing. Communities have long histories, and their physical presence and emotional resonance comes from the people who call the community their own. This project provides a crucial understanding of who we are and who we have been; it gives us the insight we need as we move forward to create a future that is more just and equitable, rich and evocative, and that represents the inclusive and dynamic community building that is so important to neighborhoods that thrive.

As a representative of Su Teatro Cultural and Performing Arts Center and as an individual, I support the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District and hope you will too as it moves through the city process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tanya Mote', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tanya Mote  
Associate Director  
Su Teatro Cultural and Performing Arts Center





1/15/2021

## DENVER INNER CITY PARISH

Landmark Preservation  
201 West Colfax  
Dept 205  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commission,

I was born in raised in the inner city of Denver and have spent most of my life in the La Alma Lincoln Park neighborhood. For 26 of my 38 years, I have been employed by or a program participant of Denver Inner City Parish, a direct service organization that has served the La Alma Lincoln Park neighborhood for over 60 years. During that time, I have met many people and have been involved with many of the businesses and organizations in the neighborhood. Although I do not live in the neighborhood, many of my family and friends have or do.

I was born in Denver, but my mother is from Mexico and my father from the San Luis Valley. I identify as Mexican-American and have a deep love for my culture. For many years La Alma Lincoln Park has been one of the pillars in our community and culture. When I think of “my” culture, La Alma Lincoln Park plays a central role, both actively and in my formative memories. From Aztec dancers to murals, sporting events, festivals, community gatherings, and a plethora of memories both good and bad, La Alma Lincoln Park has been the common connection to our culture for so many in the region.

La Alma Lincoln Park is one of Denver’s oldest residential neighborhoods and embodies early Colorado and Denver history. It was at the heart of the Chicano Movement of the 1960s and 1970s. The neighborhood demonstrates the close connection between place and the people, made tangible by the central role of the Park in the community’s life and the surviving structures set close together, diverse in their architectural styles yet maintaining a consistent pattern for 150 years.

I Larry Martinez, Executive Director of Denver Inner City Parish support the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District and hope you will too as it moves through the city process.

Sincerely,

Larry Martinez  
Executive Director



EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
AURARIA HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER

Campus Box A | P.O. Box 173361  
Denver, Colorado 80217-3361

P 303.556.3291  
F 303.556.4403  
[www.ahec.edu](http://www.ahec.edu)

January 29, 2021

Landmark Preservation  
201 West Colfax  
Dept 205  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commission,

La Alma Lincoln Park is one of Denver's oldest residential neighborhoods and embodies early Colorado and Denver history and was at the heart of the Chicano Movement of the 1960s and 1970s. The neighborhood demonstrates the close connection between place and the people, made tangible by the central role of the Park in the community's life and the surviving structures set close together, diverse in their architectural styles yet maintaining a consistent pattern for 150 years.

Over the last 12 years, I have been working for the Auraria Campus and have had the opportunity to partner with community members on various projects. During these interactions I have come to understand this special Denver cultural district. It was during one of these community planning events where I learned of this effort related to the neighborhood's history and buildings and to seek strategies to protect and honor the unique historic context and cultural heritage of the neighborhood, from its settling in the 1870s to its role in fostering Denver's Chicano movement. I know that the project team has hosted Walking Tours and a number of community meetings since 2017 to shape the current proposal to create the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District for the blocks just east of the Park between Mariposa and Kalamath, a designation that includes flexible design guidelines to protect the aspects that make the neighborhood unique, and convey its story.

I, Carl Meese, Director of Campus Planning for the Auraria Higher Education Center, support the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District and hope you will too as it moves through the city process.

Sincerely,

Carl Meese, AICP | Director of Campus Planning

AURARIA HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
P 303.556.2189  
1056 9th Street Historic Park

February 1, 2021

Landmark Preservation  
201 West Colfax  
Dept 205  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commission,

La Alma Lincoln Park is one of Denver's oldest residential neighborhoods and embodies early Colorado and Denver history and was at the heart of the Chicano Movement of the 1960s and 1970s. The neighborhood demonstrates the close connection between place and the people, made tangible by the central role of the Park in the community's life and the surviving structures set close together, diverse in their architectural styles yet maintaining a consistent pattern for 150 years.

Over the last few years, I have been working with other community members on a project to document the neighborhood's history and buildings and to seek strategies to protect and honor the unique historic context and cultural heritage of the neighborhood, from its settling in the 1870s to its role in fostering Denver's Chicano movement. From the very beginning of our organization in 1991, Museo de las Americas has witnessed the growth and history of the neighborhood. The project team has hosted Walking Tours and a number of community meetings since 2017 to shape the current proposal to create the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District for the blocks just east of the Park between Mariposa and Kalamath, a designation that includes flexible design guidelines to protect the aspects that make the neighborhood unique, and convey its story.

We support the Historic Cultural District in the preservation of this neighborhood as one of the main landmarks of Latino Hispanic Chicano history.

Museo de las Americas supports the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District and hope you will too as it moves through the city process.

Sincerely,

**Claudia Moran-Pichardo**  
Executive Director

Museo de las Americas  
861 Santa Fe Drive Denver, CO 80204



Department of History  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **DENVER**

To: The Denver Landmark Preservation Commission

Re: Designation of the La Alma Lincoln Park Cultural District

From: Tom Noel, Professor of History & Director of Public History & Preservation,  
University of Colorado at Denver

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commission,

As a former commissioner and chair, I take special interest in designation of the La Alma Lincoln Park Cultural District. As a longtime history teacher on the adjacent Auraria Campus, I often drive through that neighborhood and lead walking tours there. I am amazed at how well that neighborhood, one of Denver's oldest, is so intact, filled with well-kept and often distinctive Italianate and other stylish detached single family homes. This designation would help address criticism that we tend to just landmark the rich and famous areas.

Besides great architectural and geographical significance for being well preserved in one of the oldest parts of the city, La Alma Park Lincoln has terrific historical significance as the oldest Hispanic neighborhood in our city. As you know, Hispanics were the first and the most numerous ethnic group in Denver. Yet they are grossly underrepresented in our history and our historic landmarks and historic districts.

My only reservation is wondering why the nomination is not for a historic rather than a cultural district.



# COLORADO COLLEGE

## Southwest Studies Program

(719) 389-6649

14 E. Cache La Poudre St.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

January 13, 2021

DEAR CITY OF DENVER:

I write today as an engaged scholar in support, with reservation, of designating the La Alma/Lincoln Park community as a Historic Cultural District. I fully support creating paths for affirming histories that have historically been ignored and/or erased from public memory, especially histories from communities of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). However, Denver's "Historic Cultural District" designation affirms community histories because of their distinct cultural attributes, which belies the reality that vibrant cultural spaces are often created by BIPOC communities in response to practices of racialization, marginalization, and economic disinvestment by their local and federal governments. Furthermore, historic designation of neighborhoods does not preserve housing affordability in those communities and so valuing a community's history of cultural survival and placemaking while BIPOC people and communities continue to face historical legacies of racialized economic disinvestment, housing insecurity, and displacement is an affront to racial and economic justice.

Still, Denver's indiscriminate destruction of the built environment in the name of revitalization and economic development would threaten the survival of this region's Chicana/o/x mural history if the La Alma/Lincoln Park neighborhood is not protected. As an educator and cultural anthropologist with interests in muralism, public space, and placemaking, I urge the City of Denver to invest in the city's history of community muralism, which was birthed in La Alma/Lincoln Park neighborhood by the Chicana/o/x community. My students and I have had the privilege of breaking bread with former residents, including Emanuel Martinez, whose artistic talent and Chicanismo ushered in a community mural movement in 1969 when he and other "yellow jets" painted the façade of their public housing complex with a Zapotec geometric design. Students in my course learn that studying culture and political economy through space and place illuminates the intersections of power, economy, race, and gender as well as the production of meaning. Our conversations with former residents helps us understand how space was used to create a sustainable and welcoming community in an otherwise inhospitable urban environment.

Although many Chicana/o/x historic exterior murals have been destroyed throughout the City of Denver, those that still exist in the La Alma/Lincoln Park neighborhood tell layered histories of the people who once created homes and community in this neighborhood and function as monuments for a future yet to be materialized. All space has the potential to illustrate this and murals in public spaces do this beautifully. The beauty and monumentality of this revolutionary art form and practice is now, not surprisingly, being used by cities in the name of economic development in urban spaces, which paradoxically leads to the displacement of people and communities and to the obscuring of mural history. However, these murals are not merely paint on a wall but are a community's heritage and ought to be protected, even if the community has been displaced. Preservation of this community's history through Historic Cultural District designation would at least provide a viable path towards protection and education regarding Chicana/o/x community muralism. Thus I support, with reservation, this community's desire to attain Historic Cultural District designation. If approved, this community's historical legacy from an "undesirable" and redlined district to a Historic Cultural District would cogently illustrate how the dialectics of social life produces and constructs the built environment.



In closing, I reiterate that the City of Denver should seriously consider how to set a precedent for creating housing affordability, for valuing and investing in people and communities, and for preserving Chicana/o/x muralism history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nancy Rios', written in a cursive style.

NANCY RIOS  
*Hulbert Mellon Faculty Scholar*

**Emanuel Artist Studio 17331 Hwy 8 Morrison Colorado 80465**  
**[www.emanuelmartinez.com](http://www.emanuelmartinez.com) Ph: 303668-0579**

February 25, 2021

Landmark Preservation  
201 West Colfax  
Dept 205  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commission,

I am a former resident of the La Alma Lincoln Park neighborhood. I lived in the housing projects at 13<sup>th</sup> and Navajo from 1969 to 1972. During this time I became a community activist and muralist. I was president of the Lincoln Park Tenant Council, member on the West side action Council, the West side Coalition. I was also a life guard the Lincoln park pool and founded La Alma Recreation center. In 1971, I painted a mural on the first recreation center and later in 1978 painted the existing mural at La Alma.

La Alma Lincoln Park is not only one of Denver's oldest residential neighborhoods, it is the center of how a community came together and took over the park to include community residents to work for parks. La Alma set the example for other parks in Denver to follow like La Raza and Mestizo/Curtis park. La Alma neighborhood embodies Denver's history of civil rights and was at the heart of the Chicano Movement of the 1960s and 1970s. For example the 1969 West High School walkouts was inspired by this movement.

Because of my past experiences, I have a very special place in my heart for this neighborhood so for last few years, I have been working as an artist with other community members on this project to document the neighborhood's history and buildings. We want to protect and honor the unique historic context and cultural heritage of the neighborhood from its beginnings in the 1870s to its role in fostering Denver's Chicano movement. I was very involved in the riots that took place there with police and was arrested at the West high walkouts. I support the project team that has worked so hard to develop the current proposal to create the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District for the blocks just east of the Park between Mariposa and Kalamath. This designation will include flexible design guidelines to protect the things that make the neighborhood unique with historical significance.

Sincerely,

Emanuel Martinez



**DAVID GRIGGS**

Public Art | Planning & Design | Sculpture

Jan. 21, 2021

Landmark Preservation  
201 West Colfax  
Dept 205  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commission,

I've lived in the La Alma Lincoln Park Neighborhood for over 25 years. This is one of Denver's oldest residential neighborhoods, and its unique character is an important part of Denver's heritage. La Alma Lincoln Park illustrates the close connection between people and the places that they live. Our built environment has a great variety of homes and small businesses, with diverse architectural styles that add up to a uniquely eclectic mix.

In the last few years I have been working with other community members on a project to document the neighborhood's history and buildings and to honor the cultural heritage of the neighborhood. Since the 1870's this neighborhood has been a home for immigrants and working-class people, and it has also had an important role in fostering Denver's Chicano movement.

As an active Board member of the La Alma Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association I've been involved with this effort from its inception. Our project team has hosted Walking Tours and a number of community meetings since 2017 to shape the current proposal to create the "La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District". We have focused on the blocks just east of Lincoln Park between Mariposa and Kalamath, and we've developed a designation that includes flexible design guidelines to protect the aspects that make this neighborhood unique. We think that the built environment in this part of the neighborhood does an excellent job of telling the story of the neighborhood.

I am in strong support of the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District, and I hope that you will also support this effort to share the story of this special Denver neighborhood.

Sincerely,



David M. Griggs

cc: Shannon Stage, Historic Denver

**From:** [Christina Martinez](#)  
**To:** [Hahn, Kara L. - CPD City Planner Principal](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] LA Alma Designation - Great job  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 28, 2021 7:28:13 PM

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Hi Kara,

I was on the call this evening and heard a lot of negative comments. I had to jump off, but I wanted to say that I was not one of the community members that started this, but I am happy to help in any way possible. I thought you guys did a great job of reaching out to the community and fully support this initiative.

I moved into my home in 2018 and would love to see it kept intact.

I did have one question - I'm on kalamath between 12th and 13th and I wish the houses I faced were included. Is there future expansion possible to the area included in the district if this goes through.

--

Christina Martinez

303-917-6049

[www.linkedin.com/in/christinamartinezmarketing](http://www.linkedin.com/in/christinamartinezmarketing)

<https://christinaportfolio.marketing/>

December 27, 2020

To the Landmark Commission.

We are writing to express our support for the upcoming Historical and Cultural Designations for La Alma Lincoln Park.

We have been in the neighborhood since 2013 and live in one of the oldest historic homes in the proposed district. Our home is an example of early Italianate style architecture and has a story behind it that speaks to the aspirations of the neighborhood.

In the early 19th century, Lincoln Park was the economic center for Denver's beginnings. The completion of the railroad facilitated commerce and movement of workers, and immigrants in particular. With its proximity to the railway and the industry it supported, Lincoln Park became a natural landing place for generations of working class immigrants, refugees, and families seeking a place in which they could have a stake and upon which they could build a future.

That sense of striving is borne out in the story of John and Mary Donavon who came to Colorado from Ireland. The Donovans purchased a 5-bedroom, Italianate style house near Lipan & W 13th Ave. and ran the house as a boarding establishment, hosting single professionals. Over the decades, the census shows hotel workers (linen and pantry), one clerk from the railroad office, and one inspector working at the gas and electric company. The house is still standing as our residence today.

We hope that you will support La Alma Lincoln Park's historic and cultural designation as an acknowledgement of its contribution to the history of Denver.

Sincerely,  
Fatima Hirji and Alyson Crabtree  
1314 Lipan Street  
Denver, CO 80204



**From:** [Schueckler, Evan - CPD Associate City Planner](#)  
**To:** [Hahn, Kara L. - CPD City Planner Principal](#)  
**Subject:** FW: La Alama/Lincoln Park Historical Cultural District  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 26, 2021 3:18:43 PM

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Please see below.

Thanks,  
Evan

-----Original Message-----

From: pat mccormick <pachi35@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:16 PM  
To: Landmark - Community Planning and Development <Landmark@denvergov.org>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Alama/Lincoln Park Historical Cultural District

I support that the Lincoln Park, La Alma district be preserved as an historical and cultural landmark.

The district must be remembered for the Mayan Heritage, the homes of leading Chicana/o community members, and for multiple community services to homeowners in the Lincoln Park area. The neighborhood was the local hub of the United Farmworker's efforts to organize the famous Grape Boycott. Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez rallied the UFW supporters while visiting Denver during those years of union organizing. Another Sister of Loretto and I volunteered at the Farmworker office, were on the picket line and arrested with the UFW supporters.

During these times of ultra development in the city of Denver, it is crucial that architectural and cultural heritages be preserved. Now is time to preserve the diverse history and culture of Denver in as many ways possible. Thank you for your efforts to address this endeavor.

Patricia McCormick  
Sister of Loretto

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Andrew Forcina](#)  
**To:** [Hahn, Kara L. - CPD City Planner Principal](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] La Alma Historical Proposal  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 28, 2021 2:01:04 PM

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Dear Kara,

I lived in the La Alma neighborhood for 15 years and currently have a rental property in the neighborhood. I will not be able to attend the zoom meeting but did want to share some comments to the group. I have spoken with a native american neighbor who currently lives in the neighborhood and grew up in the neighborhood during the Chicano movement. She did not have positive things to say about the group or movement. She was concerned with the virulent nature of the group and that they did not have a positive impact on her nor the community. I do not think this is a cultural narrative we want to promote. From my perspective, the neighborhood has a long beautiful history, but I do not believe making it a historical cultural district will help anybody who lives in the neighborhood. I am concerned it will increase taxes on properties and lead to greater gentrification, and lend itself to higher costs to meet regulations. Most of the long term residents I know in the neighborhood are not likely to afford nor have the time, nor interest to participate in this type of change. If you are asking why you are not hearing from people like this with such thoughts, it is likely for that exact reason- because they are busy taking care of the day to day and not interested in having to carry any more burden than they already have.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Forcina

**From:** [dgallag954@aol.com](mailto:dgallag954@aol.com)  
**To:** [integradesign1@yahoo.com](mailto:integradesign1@yahoo.com); Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member District 2 Denver City Council; [dmigoya@denverpost.com](mailto:dmigoya@denverpost.com) EOC Media Partner COVID19 Response; [District 9](#); [Montano, Dana D. - CC YA3153 Administrator II](#); [Foster, Alexandra O. - CPD Marketing Commun Splst](#); [CPD Communications](#); [City Council District 5](#); [dencc - City Council](#); [Sandoval, Amanda P. - CC Member District 1 Denver City Council](#); [Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large](#); [Champine, Caryn M. - CPD](#); [Torres, Jamie C. - CC Member District 3 Denver City Council](#); [Clark, Jolon M. - CC Member District 7 Denver City Council](#); [Landmark - Community Planning and Development](#); [St. Peter, Teresa A. - CC Senior City Council Aide District 10](#); [Thompson, Maggie M. - CC Senior City Council Aide District 7](#); [districtone@denver.gov.org](mailto:districtone@denver.gov.org); [memberservices@denverpost.com](mailto:memberservices@denverpost.com); [CdeBaca, Candi - CC Member District 9 Denver City Council](#); [Hinds, Chris - CC Member District 10 Denver City Council](#); [Guillen, Bonnie K. - CC City Council Aide](#); [Fahrberger, Brent J. - CC Senior City Council Aide District 6](#); [Chavez, Benjamin J. - CC YA2245 City Council Aide](#); [Nevitt, Chris E. - CPD Citywide Manager for Transit-Oriented De](#); [Herndon, Christopher J. - CC Member District 8 Denver City Council](#); [Morrison, Jason P. - CPD City Planner Senior](#); [Buddenborg, Jennifer L. - CPD City Planner Senior](#); [Black, Kendra A. - CC Member District 4 Denver City Council](#); [kniechatlarge](#); [Laura Aldrete](#); [Hyser, Courtland B. - CPD City Planner Supervisor](#); [Horn, Melissa A. - CC](#); [Kashmann, Paul J. - CC Member District 6 Denver City Council](#); [planningb.board@denvergov.org](mailto:planningb.board@denvergov.org); [Nurmela, Sarah - CPD CE3124 City Planning Manager](#); [Zukowski, Liz S. - CC Senior City Council Aide District 10](#); [stacie.gillmore@denvergov.org](mailto:stacie.gillmore@denvergov.org); [ssstrand@historicdenver.org](mailto:ssstrand@historicdenver.org); [MileHighMayor](#); [New, Wayne C. - CC](#); [bfiney@denverpost.com](mailto:bfiney@denverpost.com) EOC Media Partner COVID19 Response; [docroc93@gmail.com](mailto:docroc93@gmail.com); [hgdoby@gmail.com](mailto:hgdoby@gmail.com); [dltaylor521@hotmail.com](mailto:dltaylor521@hotmail.com); [dave@livelytoursandtalks.com](mailto:dave@livelytoursandtalks.com)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: La Alma Lincoln Neighborhood - keeping its history, nature, culture and spatial elements intact  
**Date:** Monday, January 25, 2021 3:17:52 PM

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Dear Friends: This part of city needs this historic district. Council now has an opportunity to celebrate our working class neighborhood and a Latino neighborhood.. Historic districts should reflect workers cottages not just fancy mansions. Hope you can support this perambulating historic district. Si se puede, Dennis Gallagher, Denver citizen.

-----Original Message-----

From: Karen Kalavity <[integradesign1@yahoo.com](mailto:integradesign1@yahoo.com)>  
To: Kevin J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl Flynn <[kevin.flynn@denvergov.org](mailto:kevin.flynn@denvergov.org)>; David Migoya <[dmigoya@denverpost.com](mailto:dmigoya@denverpost.com)>; Candi CdeBaca <[district9@denvergov.org](mailto:district9@denvergov.org)>; Dana D. - CC Senior City Council Aide Montano <[dana.montano@denvergov.org](mailto:dana.montano@denvergov.org)>; Denver Community Planning and Development <[alexandra.foster@denvergov.org](mailto:alexandra.foster@denvergov.org)>; Denver Community Planning and Development <[cpdcommunications@denvergov.org](mailto:cpdcommunications@denvergov.org)>; City Council District 5 <[denvercouncil5@denvergov.org](mailto:denvercouncil5@denvergov.org)>; Denc - City Council <[dencc@denvergov.org](mailto:dencc@denvergov.org)>; Amanda P. - CC Member District 1 Denver City Council Sandoval <[amanda.sandoval@denvergov.org](mailto:amanda.sandoval@denvergov.org)>; Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large <[ortegaatlarge@denvergov.org](mailto:ortegaatlarge@denvergov.org)>; Caryn M. - CPD City Planning Director Champine <[caryn.champine@denvergov.org](mailto:caryn.champine@denvergov.org)>; Jamie C. - CC Member District 3 Denver City Council Torres <[jamie.torres@denvergov.org](mailto:jamie.torres@denvergov.org)>; Jolon M. - CC XA1405 President Denver City Council Clark <[jolon.clark@denvergov.org](mailto:jolon.clark@denvergov.org)>; Landmark - Community Planning and Development <[landmark@denvergov.org](mailto:landmark@denvergov.org)>; Teresa A. - CC Senior City Council Aide District 10 St. Peter <[teresa.st.peter@denvergov.org](mailto:teresa.st.peter@denvergov.org)>; Maggie M. - CC Senior City Council Aide District 7 Thompson <[maggie.thompson@denvergov.org](mailto:maggie.thompson@denvergov.org)>; [districtone@denver.gov.org](mailto:districtone@denver.gov.org) <[districtone@denver.gov.org](mailto:districtone@denver.gov.org)>; The Denver Post <[memberservices@denverpost.com](mailto:memberservices@denverpost.com)>; Candi CdeBaca <[candi.cdeBaca@denvergov.org](mailto:candi.cdeBaca@denvergov.org)>; [chris.hinds@denvergov.org](mailto:chris.hinds@denvergov.org) <[chris.hinds@denvergov.org](mailto:chris.hinds@denvergov.org)>; [bonnie.guillen@denvergov.org](mailto:bonnie.guillen@denvergov.org) <[bonnie.guillen@denvergov.org](mailto:bonnie.guillen@denvergov.org)>; [brent.fahrberger@denvergov.org](mailto:brent.fahrberger@denvergov.org) <[brent.fahrberger@denvergov.org](mailto:brent.fahrberger@denvergov.org)>; Benjamin J. - CC YA2245 City Council Aide Chavez <[benjamin.chavez@denvergov.org](mailto:benjamin.chavez@denvergov.org)>; [chris.nevitt@denvergov.org](mailto:chris.nevitt@denvergov.org) <[chris.nevitt@denvergov.org](mailto:chris.nevitt@denvergov.org)>; [christopher.herndon@denvergov.org](mailto:christopher.herndon@denvergov.org) <[christopher.herndon@denvergov.org](mailto:christopher.herndon@denvergov.org)>; Jason P. - CPD City Planner Senior Morrison <[jason.morrison@denvergov.org](mailto:jason.morrison@denvergov.org)>; Jennifer L. - CPD City Planner Senior Buddenborg <[jennifer.buddenborg@denvergov.org](mailto:jennifer.buddenborg@denvergov.org)>; [kendra.black@denvergov.org](mailto:kendra.black@denvergov.org) <[kendra.black@denvergov.org](mailto:kendra.black@denvergov.org)>; Kniechatlarge <[kniechatlarge@denvergov.org](mailto:kniechatlarge@denvergov.org)>; Laura Aldrete <[laura.aldrete@denvergov.org](mailto:laura.aldrete@denvergov.org)>; Courtland B. - CPD City Planner Principal Hyser <[courtland.hyser@denvergov.org](mailto:courtland.hyser@denvergov.org)>; Melissa A. - CC Horn <[melissa.horn@denvergov.org](mailto:melissa.horn@denvergov.org)>; [paul.kashmann@denvergov.org](mailto:paul.kashmann@denvergov.org) <[paul.kashmann@denvergov.org](mailto:paul.kashmann@denvergov.org)>; [planningb.board@denvergov.org](mailto:planningb.board@denvergov.org) <[planningb.board@denvergov.org](mailto:planningb.board@denvergov.org)>; Sarah - CPD CE3124 City Planning Manager Nurmela <[sarah.nurmela@denvergov.org](mailto:sarah.nurmela@denvergov.org)>; [liz.zukowski@denvergov.org](mailto:liz.zukowski@denvergov.org) <[liz.zukowski@denvergov.org](mailto:liz.zukowski@denvergov.org)>; [stacie.gillmore@denvergov.org](mailto:stacie.gillmore@denvergov.org) <[stacie.gillmore@denvergov.org](mailto:stacie.gillmore@denvergov.org)>; Historic Denver <[ssstrand@historicdenver.org](mailto:ssstrand@historicdenver.org)>; [milehighmayor@denvergov.org](mailto:milehighmayor@denvergov.org) <[milehighmayor@denvergov.org](mailto:milehighmayor@denvergov.org)>;

wayne.new@denvergov.org <wayne.new@denvergov.org>; bfinley@denverpost.com  
<bfinley@denverpost.com>; Dennis Gallagher <dgallag954@aol.com>; Rocky Piro  
<docroc93@gmail.com>; Harry Doby <hgdoby@gmail.com>; dltaylor521 <dltaylor521@hotmail.com>;  
Lively Tours and Talks <dave@livelytoursandtalks.com>  
Sent: Mon, Jan 25, 2021 2:41 pm  
Subject: La Alma Lincoln Neighborhood - keeping its history, nature, culture and spatial elements intact

City Council Members,

La Alma Lincoln Park is one of Denver's oldest residential neighborhoods and embodies early Colorado and Denver history and was at the heart of the Chicano Movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

The neighborhood demonstrates the close connection between place and the people, made tangible by the central role of the Park in the community's life and the surviving structures set close together, diverse in their architectural styles yet maintaining a consistent pattern for 150 years.

Over the last few years, my friend, Greg Alcaro and I have been working with other community members on a project to document the neighborhood's history and buildings and to seek strategies to protect and honor the unique historic context and cultural heritage of the neighborhood, from its settling in the 1870s to its role in fostering Denver's Chicano movement.

The project team has hosted Walking Tours and a number of community meetings since 2017 to shape the current proposal to create the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District for the blocks

just east of the Park between Mariposa and

Kalamath, a designation that includes flexible design

guidelines to protect the aspects that make the neighborhood unique, and convey its story.

As a friend, Greg and I have made connections between the Lincoln La Alma neighborhood with the 9th Street Historic Park Neighborhood on the Auraria Campus, thereby making a link of the past with the future of Denver, while keeping at least some of Denver's history intact.

I have personally, been part of many events on the campus that emanated from the adjoining Lincoln La Alma neighborhood. For several years, we even brought in a donkey for the Christmas ceremony where we copied the journey of Joseph and Mary while they tried to find lodging before the birth of their son, Jesus. This is a very traditional Catholic "pilgrimage" and represents the story of the homeless looking for refuge in our world...where only a few will offer that shelter.

I support the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District

and hope you will too as it moves through the city process.

Thank You,

Karen Kalavity



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)



**From:** [Karen Kalavity](#)  
**To:** [Hahn, Kara L. - CPD City Planner Principal](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: La Alma Lincoln Neighborhood - keeping its history, nature, culture and spatial elements intact  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 22, 2021 12:28:53 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Kara,

I will respond by adding some current comments, rather than going back to any original comments:

I grew up in Denver, but really didn't know too much about the "Westside" until becoming friends with Greg Alcaro. His family grew up in the house called "Casa Mayan" at 1020 Ninth Street, which was a home, as well as a business and cultural, historic arts center...that's what homes were at one time. They covered everything from living upstairs to having a business on the lower level and entertaining guests with music, art, etc.

That whole area, which is now on the north and south side of Colfax, was built by miners who came to the area looking for gold (Auraria mean gold), and it brought many people with different religious and ethnic backgrounds together. There were five churches within a mile radius and it brought people of Catholic, Jewish, Protestant, etc. backgrounds all together to one of the oldest areas of Denver. These people settled near the rivers at the confluence of Cherry Creek (named after the Chokecherries, not European Cherries), and the South Platte, which was great for retrieving water, but not so great when the floods came with a cyclic urgency. Therefore, when the Flood of 1965 came and destroyed much of the original settlement, DURA (Denver Urban Renewal Authority), and others decided that the flooded-out area should be the home of a new higher education center, and many of the original people and businesses needed to be displaced.

A whole culture of people and history was decimated!

We need to acknowledge and keep whole, the homes and cultures that have weathered the natural and man-made "storms" of the area. We need to keep a historic district in place that remembers who was here first and the memories that have been created through their architecture and through their events & culture. We also need to acknowledge that before the miners, and before the other ethnic groups made this part of Denver home, there were bison, rabbits, foxes and many other animals who used this place between the rivers, as well as many Native American tribes.

That is why we need to creat a Historic District in this part of Denver!

Thanks,  
Karen

On Monday, June 21, 2021, 04:08:15 PM MDT, Hahn, Kara L. - CPD City Planner Principal <kara.hahn@denvergov.org> wrote:

**From:** [wende.nossaman](#)  
**To:** [Landmark - Community Planning and Development](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In Support of La Alma Lincoln Park as Historic District  
**Date:** Monday, June 28, 2021 4:57:09 PM

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Hello

I am unable to attend the hearing on Wednesday, so I wanted to share my full support for making La Alma Park a historic district. I grew up in Park Hill and have lived in many of our urban neighborhoods. The preservation of older homes in these communities is more important than ever, particularly as we continue to see more people move to Colorado and the demand for homes increase along with property values. Historic districts preserve the souls of our city and I wish to see more of them created. Thank you for all you do for historic Denver.

Sincerely,

Wende Nossaman

**From:** [Brooke White](#)  
**To:** [Landmark - Community Planning and Development](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Stance on Historic District Designation  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 3:00:16 PM

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I would like to change my stance from neutral to against due to neighborhood involvement at the meeting on 06.29.2021. Thank you.

Brooke White  
1117 W 10th Ave, Denver, CO 80204

**From:** [kimarym1\\_prospectvalley.com](mailto:kimarym1_prospectvalley.com)  
**To:** [Landmark - Community Planning and Development](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In Support of La Alma Lincoln Park Designation  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 7, 2021 8:29:07 AM

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Thank you for efforts to designate La Alma Lincoln Park as a Historic Cultural District. As land prices rise, and property taxes and insurance rise many places of cultural significance are lost in large cities such as Denver and I applaud the forward thinking of our City Council for contributing to the protection of this piece of our history.

I am not of Chicano descent, however, I feel that their history is my history because they shaped the metro area that I benefit from.

We have a rich cultural history and I hope that in time something will survive of all the major people groups who contributed to our history, as did the Native Americans, Italians / other European groups, Jewish immigrants, African American population, Greek and Asian peoples and other significant influxes of residents over the century. I hope that tributes to all these people and significant professions that shaped our history survive and document our rich cultural and socioeconomic diversity.

Sincerely,

Kimary Marchese

(303) 722-8233

Supporter of Historic Denver

Resident and property owner in Denver and Denver Metro suburbs since 1979

Member of the Victorian Society of Colorado and related clubs interested in preserving history since 1990

**From:** [Marilyn Quinn](#)  
**To:** [Landmark - Community Planning and Development](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In Support of La Alma Lincoln Park as Historic District  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 7:40:46 AM

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I support designation of La Alma Lincoln Park as a Denver historic district. This action will honor and preserve an area with roots to the beginnings of Denver. Thank you for your support!  
Marilyn Quinn

Sent from my iPhone