

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver
Proclamation No. CP12-0340

In support of the Nomination of Civic Center as a National Historic Landmark

WHEREAS, Denver's Civic Center complex is the most intact City Beautiful design in the nation, reflecting the city's early attention to city planning and the value of open spaces as well as our unique western heritage; and

WHEREAS, Denver Mayor Robert Speer outlined a vision for a city in a park, anchored by a Civic Center, of elegant design based on the principals of the City Beautiful movement intended to uplift the souls of Denver residents and pronounce Denver's place as a great city; and

WHEREAS, the Civic Center design was shaped by a succession of nationally renowned designers, including Charles Mulford Robinson, Frederick MacMonnies, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and finally Edward H. Bennett, who synthesized the disparate elements into a unified whole; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado State Capitol, an exceptional example of Renaissance Revival, dominates the east end of Civic Center and provides an open vista toward the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains and the Denver City & County Building, a monumental public building in the Georgian Revival style; and

WHEREAS, between these two great buildings lie the public grounds of the Capitol, Lincoln Park, Civic Center park, and the forecourt of the City & County Building, embellished with a variety of landscape features that contribute to an attractive and inspiring park setting that includes groves and borders of trees, expanses of lawn and formal flowerbeds, pedestrian walkways and paved plazas, elaborate balustrades, fountains, and a reflecting pool; and

WHEREAS, nationally recognized artists of the period who produced works of art blending classical forms with popular regional themes; include muralist Allen Tupper True and sculptors Frederick MacMonnies, Alexander Phimister Proctor, Preston Powers, and Robert Garrison; and

WHEREAS, two colonnaded structures -- the Voorhies Monumental Gateway and the Greek Theater and Colonnade -- continue to draw the public from the expanding business district nearby and offer a venue for public entertainment and civic engagement as they did when first constructed; and

WHEREAS, significant public and private efforts remain dedicated to the restoration and enhancement of Civic Center with partnerships among the Denver Department of Parks & Recreation, Civic Center Conservancy, Historic Denver, Inc., state agencies and others in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Civic Center Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, and became a local landmark district in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Civic Center will be the first National Historic Landmark designation in the City & County of Denver.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council hereby recognizes and supports the nomination of Denver's Civic Center as a National Historic Landmark.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the Department of the Interior and National Parks Service in support of the National Historic Landmark nomination.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 30, 2012

PRESIDENT