

**Comments on 4655 Humboldt (Stadium Arena) Landmark Designation
Received by Community Planning and Development
By March 14, 2016**



March 7, 2016

Denver Landmark Commission
201 W. Colfax
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Landmark Commissioners,

On behalf of Historic Denver's Board of Trustees I am writing to offer our support for the designation of the 1909 Stadium Arena on the National Western Stock Show site.

Historic Denver has been actively involved in conversations about the National Western since 2011, advocating for the historic buildings and site features that convey the deep history of the site and provide much of its unique character. In 2011 we provided the City, the Stock Show and relevant stakeholders important information about the history of the site and the historic buildings, and from 2013 to 2016 we have participated in the Master Planning process as a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

This character, and the associated cultural identity, are critical assets to the Stock Show and to Denver. The designation of the Stadium Arena, the first official Stock Show structure constructed and the oldest Stock Show building still used for some of its original purposes, is the first and more important step in the preservation plans for the site. The designation will enable the City and National Western Stock Show Association to earn grants for further analysis of the building and to design the specific restoration and rehabilitation actions necessary to reactivate the building for on-going, year-round use.

As noted in the designation application, the designation boundaries include the original 1909 structure, identifying several later additions as non-contributing. We concur with this approach, as the arena was designed as a stand-alone building and will be much better appreciated when it is fully revealed. Furthermore, due to its close proximity to 1-70 and 46th Avenue the restored Stadium Arena will be one of the most prominent visual symbols of the Stock Show.

We congratulate the City of Denver, North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative and the National Western Stock Show Association on this important action, and offer our gratitude for their commitment to the Stadium Arena and the heritage of this important site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Annie Levinsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Annie Levinsky
Executive Director



March 8, 2016

Martin Goldstein, Chair
Denver Landmark Preservation Commission

Dear Mr. Goldstein and Landmark Preservation Commission Members:

On behalf of the National Western Stock Show, we are honored to submit this letter of support for designation of the Stadium Arena as a local historic landmark.

In 2014, the City and County of Denver, the Western Stock Show Association, Colorado State University (CSU), History Colorado and Denver Museum of Nature and Science forged a partnership to oversee the transformation of the historic National Western Stock Show complex into a 270-acre year-round center for commerce, education and culture – the new National Western Center (NWC). Together we developed the National Western Center Master Plan, and worked hand in hand with the landmark preservation community on an appropriate strategy for preserving historic resources at the NWC.

Landmark designation of the Stadium Arena is an important recommendation from the Master Plan, and an essential step in preserving this iconic building for future generations. The Stadium Arena was the finest facility of its time built for livestock and horse shows. Even today, showing cattle or other livestock in the Stadium Arena is a great honor for ranchers, drawing people from more than 40 states annually to compete in the National Western Stock Show (NWSS).

Growth of the NWSS over time has necessitated alterations and building expansion adjacent to the Stadium Arena. The NWSS has made every effort to respect the historic features of the Arena by building additions that “lightly touch” the Arena and that essentially leave the historic structure intact, with hopes that some day it can be restored to a freestanding structure, as originally built.

That opportunity is now before us. The NWC Master Plan envisions demolition of attached structures, historic rehabilitation of the Arena, and repurposing it as an active, year-round public market. The Arena market will offer visitors, NWC employees and Denver residents the opportunity to experience the preserved, historic Arena while purchasing fresh, locally grown foods and Colorado products. During the National Western Stock Show each January, the arena will blend its new identity as a public market with its more historical and traditional uses as venue for entertainment and livestock showing. For instance, the champion steer will continue to be showcased at the Arena as it has been for the last century.

Thank you for your consideration of this landmark designation. It is an important first step in preserving the Stadium Arena so that future generations may enjoy it and connect with Denver’s past.

Sincerely,


Paul Andrews
President and CEO
National Western Stock Show

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AMY L. PARSONS, EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR

March 10, 2016

Martin Goldstein, Chair
Denver Landmark Preservation Commission
201 W. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Mr. Goldstein and Landmark Preservation Commission Members:

On behalf of the Colorado State University System, I am honored to submit this letter of support for designation of the Stadium Arena as a local historic landmark.

As one of the five original partners on the National Western Center (NWC) redevelopment, CSU is committed to realizing the vision of a center of life-long learning, and addressing the most pressing challenges related to food, water, health, and the environment and celebrating the rich history of the West.

In addition to facilities focused on water and on equine sports medicine, CSU's plans for our presence at the NWC include a "CSU Center" with a variety of activities envisioned. The uses of the CSU Center may include a gallery that is the permanent home of the Coors Western Art Collection, rotating exhibit space that features Denver Museum of Nature and Science and History Colorado exhibits, and an educational center focused on STEM and agricultural literacy for learners of all ages.

The Master Plan identified a location for the CSU Center that is adjacent to the 1909 Stadium Arena. CSU sees multiple benefits to this adjacency, including the potential for complementary uses in the 1909 Stadium Arena that would lead to mutually beneficial facilities. CSU also understands the potential of linking Colorado's entrepreneurial and innovative agricultural legacy—embodied by the 1909 Stadium Arena—with the 21st century agriculture and food systems topics addressed in the CSU Center.

CSU has experience developing new facilities that integrate well with existing and historic structures on our campuses. CSU's intention is to design and construct a facility that integrates with, respects, and honors our adjacency to the 1909 Stadium Arena and will be in accordance with the NWC design guidelines, once created. Naturally, any portion of CSU's facility or exterior spaces that fall within the Landmark Preservation Commission boundary for the 1909 Stadium Arena will be designed and developed in collaboration with the Landmark Preservation Commission.

Thank you for your consideration of this landmark designation. We look forward to working with you in the future on design of the public space around the Stadium Arena to create an environment that best showcases the historic features of this iconic structure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy L. Parsons".

Amy L. Parsons
Executive Vice Chancellor
Colorado State University System