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## Historic Denver to Celebrate 50 Years with Exhibit and Call to Action



**Historic Denver—(February 18, 2021)** Fifty years ago a group of Denver residents, mostly young and from different walks of life, formed Historic Denver, Inc. and began saving the places we can't imagine Denver without- from the Molly Brown House to Union Station. To commemorate this anniversary and reignite this passion, Historic Denver will present a new exhibit at the Molly Brown House Museum and launch the 50 Actions for 50 Places Campaign.

The Museum exhibit, **Looking Forward/Looking Back**, will open March 19 and run through September 19, and will bring the early years of Historic Denver to life, exploring how volunteers began restoring the 1889 home of the Unsinkable Molly Brown as the organization's first project. Visitors will learn about the painstaking restoration of each room in the house and the detective work done to find some of the Brown's furnishings and art. Guests will also "meet" the founders of Historic Denver who worked hard to make the Museum a reality. Museum Director Andrea Malcomb shares that, "we hope everyone walks away inspired by this grassroots efforts to tell the full and diverse story of those who shaped Denver just as Margaret Brown did one hundred years ago."

The **50 Actions for 50 Places** campaign seeks to honor the work of the organization's founders by uncovering the next fifty places worthy of preservation action. Historic Denver's Executive Director Annie Levinsky noted, "the Molly Brown House was saved by regular people who looked around their community and took action. The Museum's success has now supported the preservation of hundreds of other historic places across the city for five decades. In this spirit we want to invite our community to tell us what places in their neighborhoods they most want to save for future generations."

**Starting March 1 community members can share the places they can't imagine Denver without through an on-line form and map at [www.historicdenver.org](http://www.historicdenver.org).** Perhaps it's a favorite neon sign, a school, church, or community center, the home of someone that shaped Denver, a unique block, an open space, a meaningful mural, or a small business. In May, Historic Denver will announce these **50 Places** relevant to Denver's history, representative of Denver's diverse stories, and not already having recognition or protection. Historic Denver will then work with community members to develop **50 Action** strategies, such as raising awareness, storytelling, interpretive markers, technical assistance, and nominations for recognition or protection through local, state and federal programs.

Details on both the exhibit and the 50 Actions campaign can be found at [www.historicdenver.org](http://www.historicdenver.org). Tickets for *Looking Forward/Looking Back* are included with general museum admission and can be purchased in advance at [www.mollybrown.org](http://www.mollybrown.org).

### **Historic Denver Today**

What began with the Molly Brown House Museum in late 1970 has expanded into a citywide historic preservation movement. Through advocacy, restoration work, and partnerships the organization has secured a future for beloved Denver places and spaces, from the Paramount Theater to Union Station, the Dr. Justina Ford House to 9<sup>th</sup> Street Historic Park, the Baker neighborhood to the Lower Downtown Historic District. Today, fifty years into its work, Historic Denver engages the community through the Molly Brown House Museum, connecting visitors and students with themes from women's suffrage to voting rights, and supports action that honors our city's cultural history. Current community efforts include bringing forward the story of Denver's Chicano/a Movement in La Alma Lincoln Park, nominating sites for local landmark status, helping to shape the future of the Loretto Heights Campus and the National Western Center, finding preservation solutions for buildings in jeopardy, and creating an inventory of significant buildings and neighborhoods across the city through the Discover Denver project. Get involved at [www.historicdenver.org](http://www.historicdenver.org).