

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION WORK SESSION

CITY OF DAVENPORT, IOWA

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2022; 5:00 PM

CITY HALL | 226 WEST 4TH STREET | COUNCIL CHAMBERS

I. Call to Order

II. Topics for Discussion

A. Subcommittee for Public Education and Community Outreach

III. Adjourn

IV. Next Commission Meeting: May 10, 2022

City of Davenport
Historic Preservation Commission Work Session

Department: Development & Neighborhood Services
Contact Info: Matt Werderitch 563.888.2221

Date
4/12/2022

Subject:
Subcommittee for Public Education and Community Outreach

Recommendation:
Hold the discussion. No formal action can be taken during a Work Session.

Background:
The Historic Preservation Commission established the Subcommittee for Public Education and Community Outreach at its February 8, 2022 meeting. The purpose is to explore opportunities to better educate the community on Davenport's historic properties.

Topics for Discussion:

1. May Library Event
2. Party in the Park Event
3. Walking Tour of Downtown Davenport
4. Davenport School District Project

ATTACHMENTS:

Type	Description
▢ Backup Material	Davenport School District Project

REVIEWERS:

Department	Reviewer	Action	Date
Community Planning & Economic Development	Werderitch, Matt	Approved	4/8/2022 - 3:55 PM

Summary of Ideas for Possible HPC/Davenport District Schools Project

Director of Learning & Results, Lisa Stevenson was the contact with which I presented the possible collaboration with HPC. With Lisa's direction, I then contacted Steve Schwaegler, Davenport District Fine Arts Curriculum & Instruction Specialist, to describe the collaboration of connected students with local historically designated buildings. He recommended that we designate some Davenport historic sites to coincide with a yearly event that 3rd and 5th graders (GLOE trips) attend that includes the Figge and the Adler Theatre. These would need to be historic example sites that are within walking distance from the Figge and the Adler Theatre, which are currently the two sites these grade levels visit every year. (As you can see below, the Adler is actual one of the sites I recommended).

After some research, I suggested 4 possible places: 1) Davenport Bank & Trust Company, #47, on 203 & 229 W. 3rd, 2) The Davenport Library, #59, Davenport Public Library-Edward Durrell Stone Bldg., 321 Ne. Main Street, 3) Mississippi Hotel /RKO (now Adler Theater) on 102 & 136 E. 3rd Street, #45 and 4) The Firestone Service Center in the newly designated Davenport Motor Row and Industrial Historic District, 301 E. 3rd Street.

All of the above are within walking distance from the Figge and the Adler Theatre. Additionally, 1) has an incredible ceiling fresco of the Black Hawk Treaty, ornamentation front doors and architecture, 2) an homage to the Kennedy Center and from the Mid-Century architectural period, 3) example of Art Deco architecture and 4) a gas station/car display room, etc. from the Modernistic, Streamlined Moderne Period. All buildings were for different uses. There is a broad spectrum here within a relatively small area. I also thought these would appeal to younger students. I presented these as suggestions and asked that they share if they knew of others that may be within the walking distance requirement. I need to find out which site they see as viable for which grade level and if two examples are enough for each of the two grade levels.

After some time was given for mulling over the project, Steve mentioned that for a culminating art project, art teachers could use **photocopies of these sites** for students to individually look at and interpret into their own art piece. Steve mentioned that a video or slide show of these sites or any others that might be on the student's level would also pique their interest before their trip and resulting projects. These finished student art works might be able to be displayed, later, at City Hall, the Library, and/or the Figge, etc., written comments from the students concerning the site they chose might also be included. I believe all of the above could connect to the arts and social studies curricula, AND interest the students.

I did send both Specialists some Wikipedia historical information on each of the sites, except for the last example, which is not yet on Wikipedia, just as a beginning of

reference. I did find some brief information to send on the recent National Register Application for #4 of the possible sites.

Steve sent a comment to share: "After several conversations and brainstorming with Diane and Melissa on the development of this partnership with the Davenport Historical Preservation Commission, I am very excited about the possible curricular connections that can be forged in combination with our GLOE Trips. With Davenport HPC resources, Creative Arts Academy students at Sudlow and Central HS could possibly be involved in Project-Based Learning opportunities to produce media art of the historical sites for the various GLOE Trips that students would visit in Downtown Davenport. So not only would the elementary students on the GLOE Trip be learning, but the secondary students preparing the media would also gain knowledge. Furthermore, the media created by the CAA students could be shared with the Davenport HPC to post on their website if they wished.

Diane lists sites and additional ideas for expanding the learning at the bottom of this email chain. The opportunities for student engagement with this partnership make this a very exciting collaboration!"

Melissa Trimble, Curriculum & Instruction Specialist of Social Studies stated: "I appreciated the communication about this amazing collaboration with the Davenport Historical Preservation Society and DCSD. Combining existing experiences or field trips our kids take that celebrate art and music with these historical sites is a great start! I look forward to seeing how else this work gets extended with JH and HS down the road."

(Specialists Suggestions for what HPC can do to assist with this project):

As a next step, Specialists have requesting the HPC provide **virtual photos** of each of the 4 sites I recommended (I have included the #'s for each from the HPC listing of Davenport Landmarks and/or National Register sites: 1) Davenport Bank & Trust Company, #47, on 203 & 229 W. 3rd, 2) The Davenport Library, #59, Davenport Public Library-Edward Durrell Stone Bldg., 321 Ne. Main Street, 3) Mississippi Hotel /RKO (now Adler Theater) on 102 & 136 E. 3rd Street, #45 and 4) The Firestone Service Center in the newly designated Davenport Motor Row and Industrial Historic District, 301 E. 3rd Street.

Specifically, for the visual art part of this project, Steve mentioned that art teachers could use **photocopies of these sites** for students to individually look at and interpret in their own art piece. **Brief print-outs of the background of these buildings and... why they are historically or architecturally important** to receive special designations...National Register or Davenport Landmark. **Discussions** could then ensue with students as to why it is important to save these buildings, restore and protect, as well. Steve mentioned that a **video or slide show of these sites** or any

other that might be on the student's level would also pique their interest before their trip and resulting projects.

Steve added: "I am very excited about the possible curricular connections that can be forged in combination with our GLOE Trips. With Davenport HPC resources, Creative Arts Academy students at Sudlow Intermediate and Central HS could possibly be involved in Project-Based Learning opportunities to produce media art of the historical sites for the various GLOE Trips that students would visit in Downtown Davenport. So not only would the elementary students on the GLOE Trip be learning, but the secondary students preparing the media would also gain knowledge. Furthermore, the media created by the CAA students could be shared with the Davenport HPC to post on their website if they wished."

Melissa Trimble concluded: "Our 3rd graders travel annually to the Adler Theater to watch the Nutcracker and the 5th graders travel annually to the Figge each spring as part of the River Currents Tour. I would hope that videos of the locations (with information given by the HPC, could be made for teachers and students to use prior to visiting the locations.

As our social studies standards do not reference historical preservation, I feel the best plan is to capitalize on capturing information about our Historical Sites. I envision having the historic society create videos at the historical locations with experts discussing their significance and drawing attention to the specific architectural details as well as tie the location to a particular time period in history. That way, our social studies teachers could use the videos to accentuate their lessons and connect time periods discussed in history books closer to 'home'. Perhaps our CAA students could be involved in the making of the videos... and they most certainly can help creating a google site to house and organize all the videos. Furthermore, I would think the area Visitors Bureau would also be interested in this video library site to offer to visitors to our area - for one, walking tours could be created highlighting our historical buildings for visitors arriving on the new Mississippi River Cruises.

I am excited to see what we can create and use in our classrooms!"

Additional Possibility for a Historic Site Visit – Social Studies/ Architecture Elements

5) Davenport Bank & Trust Company built in 1927, shows a collection of disparate stylistic elements so doesn't fall into one architectural style. The lower story façade features black marble panels on the lowest level, an ornate metal entrance, columns with stylized capitals and recessed Roman arched windows. The middle part of the building is a conservative office building with a smooth limestone surface punctuated by windows. Most of the south elevation and part of the west elevation, however, are clad in buff-colored brick. The building is capped by a pedimented temple and a three-story-tall clock tower. Four 6-foot (1.8 m) statues of eagles sit at the corners of the tower. The clock faces are 10 feet (3.0 m) in diameter.[14] The total height of the building is 255 feet (78 m), which makes it the tallest building in the Quad City area.[16]

The building has retained its original banking room, a multi-story space with an elaborately painted ceiling. The space is lit by the large Roman arched windows on the east elevation. The ceiling is a canopy of groin vaults and is painted in a multi-colored design. A painting by Davenport artist Hiram Thompsen depicting the signing of the treaty between the Sauk and Meskwaki tribes and the US government after the Black Hawk War has hung prominently on the south wall since 1928.[17] The original wrought iron teller "cages" remain and the rest of the interior features dark wood and marble elements.

The ceiling decoration of the main banking room was designed by Chicago artist Alexander Rinoskopf and was executed by the Davenport decorating firm of Hartman and Sedding. Ten men created the stencils on 85 yards (78 m) of paper and two artists rendered the work in oils. The Italian Renaissance style of work features spirals, rosettes, festoons, griffins, swans and masks. In addition, there are also ten murals that are 6 feet (2 m) high, which provide a chronological history of Davenport from its earliest times to the American Civil War. The murals depict the arrival of the first Europeans to this part of the Mississippi River Valley (1654); the Sauk warrior Black Hawk (1812); the battle on Davenport's Credit Island in the War of 1812 (1814); the last bison chased from what is now the Quad Cities (1816); the construction of Fort Armstrong on what is now Arsenal Island (1817); the first steamboat up the Mississippi River (1823); the establishment of Davenport and immigration to the new town (1836); Davenport's first school (1838); the first railroad bridge across the Mississippi River (1856); and the Civil War training camps that operated in Davenport (1861).

The largest mural occupies the south wall of the building and depicts the signing of the Black Hawk Treaty in September 1832. The treaty was signed at what is now Fifth and Farnam Streets in Davenport.[18] Hiram Thompsen, who created the painting, was a native of Cincinnati and studied at the Chicago Art Institute and the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts. He was a commercial artist who went on to do advertising artwork for Davenport-based Gordon-Van Tine and Montgomery Ward. The painting measures 15 by 9 feet (5 by 3 m).[18] It features the likenesses of General Winfield Scott, his

interpreter and Davenport founder Antoine LeClaire, and the Native American chiefs Keokuk and Pashapaho.