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Keynote speakers for Colorado Preservation Inc.'s 2023 Saving Places Conference announced

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Colorado Preservation, Inc. (CPI) is pleased to announce the keynote speakers at the Saving Places® 2023 Conference: Closer to the Heart at the Hilton Embassy Suites in Boulder on Wednesday, Feb. 8 through Friday, Feb. 10. All information and registration

Speaker on Wednesday, Feb. 8 through Friday, Feb. 10. For more information and registration is online at SavingPlacesConference.org.

Since 1998, Colorado Preservation, Inc.'s Saving Places® Conference has provided workshops and educational opportunities to residents, students, and professionals as they learn about history, architecture, the latest historic preservation methods, local, and national efforts to save historic places, and an opportunity to network with leaders in the field.

Wednesday, Feb. 8 keynote

Max Page, "Winning a Future for the Historic Preservation Movement We Need"

Colorado Preservation, Inc. is pleased to bring Max Page, professor of architecture, and director of historic preservation initiatives at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, to the Saving Places 2023 Conference. Page will lay out his agenda for the future of historic preservation based on his book, "Why Preservation Matters". He argues that preservation has a uniquely powerful role in central projects for building a more just society – by promoting an examination of our shared and often difficult histories, showing a pathway toward a more sustainable future, and serving as a catalyst for greater economic justice. Preservation deserves to be at the center of all these efforts; achieving that aim requires building lasting coalitions of stakeholders. Preservation only happens – or only happens successfully – when a broad range of stakeholders are engaged in preserving and interpreting places that matter.

Thursday, Feb. 9 keynote





Image by Lesnick Photo

Ira Matt, "Preservation as Perpetuation"

Historic preservation has frequently been carried out in a manner inconsistent with the views and lifeways of Indigenous Peoples. However, the growth of Tribal Cultural Programs, the development of Tribal Colleges and Universities, and the presence of Indigenous people in leadership positions throughout the federal government are helping to empower a new generation of Indigenous preservationists devoted to changing that dynamic. Join Ira L. Matt, director for the ACHP's Office of Native American Affairs, as he explores ways Indian Tribes are utilizing historic preservation to effectuate cultural perpetuation and how the historic preservation community can support this effort.

Thursday, Feb. 9 keynote





Laura Dominguez, “Repair, Not Replace: What Memory Keepers in the West Teach Us about Preservation Justice”

Coloradans – and Americans at large – are reckoning with how the stories we tell about our past and the places we cherish are entangled in histories of violence, settler colonialism, and racism. As preservationists, we argue that saving places help bring history to life and forge community connections. We value repair over replacement regarding our tangible heritage, part of our commitment to a more sustainable future. If we pull back the lens, how has the logic of “repair, not replace” shaped relationships among people in the American West? How have our commemorative practices reinforced structures that oppress and exclude Indigenous, immigrant, and other racialized groups? Using examples from California, historian Laura Dominguez will explore how communities of repairers leaned on their ancestral heritage during times of crisis and what we might learn from their stories about mending bonds in the age of pandemics, climate change, and democratic fracture.

Thursday, Feb. 9 – Colorado’s Most Endangered Places Luncheon

Katherine Darnstadt, “Sleeping Beauties”

Katherine Darnstadt founded Latent Design, a Chicago-based architecture and urbanism firm working on social impact projects across the Midwest. Katherine will be at CPI’s Endangered Places Program announcement to present the restoration of the Laramie State Bank building. The project is part of the inaugural Invest South/West development competition-winning team. Laramie State Bank is a unique terracotta-clad monument to fiscal responsibility in an Egyptian revival design motif. Holding strong at the corner of the Chicago west side neighborhood of Austin, the bank signaled strength, success, and was a community cornerstone. Its decay became analogous to decades of strategic disinvestment in the neighborhood, exacerbated by the purity of preservation that valued the object of the building and hindered attempts at restoration and reinvestment. Lessons and ideas from the Laramie State Bank building project will inspire preservationists working on similar community-activating projects across Colorado.

Friday, Feb. 10 Keynote





Donovan Rypkema, “Closer to the Heart - How Revealed Preference Analysis demonstrates the Impacts of Preservation on Communities”

Much of the work of PlaceEconomics is measuring the impacts of historic preservation on local communities. Among the methodologies used is “Revealed Preference” – an approach that looks to the actions of the marketplace to indicate choices made by individuals, businesses, and institutions. Based on more than a dozen city-level studies, evidence has emerged of the inclination to choose historic buildings, districts, and neighborhoods to live, work, and play. Donovan Rypkema, principal of PlaceEconomics, will provide examples of revealed preference findings and other measures that historic preservation is “Closer to the Heart” in its social, cultural, and economic impact on towns and cities across the country and beyond.

Attendees will receive access to recorded session content 6 months after the conference and can register to join the event remotely through a live-stream option. This is the first year CPI’s conference travels to Boulder and along with the new location, those attending can expect new tours revealing a side of Boulder likely never seen.

Attendees should plan to attend the broader conference in February and then join CPI On the Road on Aug. 25-26 in La Junta as the organization brings attendees onsite to a community in the state rich with heritage and culture. The On the Road component of the Saving Places® Conference offers attendees a unique experience to learn from local community members and tour rarely seen historic sites, learning of the traditions and challenges specific to the community visited. On the Road takes place over two days with the first day being sessions and the second behind-the-scenes tours. Both the February conference and the On the Road component will explore the theme “Closer to the Heart” and look at preservation through the eyes of the people making a difference.

Where would historic preservation be without the committed individuals and

organizations working day after day to protect, reimagine, and breathe new life into places throughout the state for the enjoyment of all? At the core of preservation is community. The 2023 conference theme "Closer to the Heart" will celebrate the heart of preservation, the people, partners, and funders making a difference in communities throughout Colorado. Join CPI for the 2023 conference which will look at the stories behind the preservation of place, the cultural heritage, and context behind some of the state's well-known and overlooked, communities.

CPI's Saving Places® Conference provides critical training, networking, and educational opportunities to support residents, professionals, and communities involved and new to cultural and historic preservation. Sessions will look at how different communities across the state and beyond define, evaluate, protect, interpret, and document Colorado's irreplaceable historic and cultural resources. Attendees can expect sessions ranging from beginner to continuing education credits that include AIA, AIA-HSW, APA, and Educator.

The Saving Places Conference is open to all! Register early to take advantage of early-bird pricing. Special pricing for first-time attendees with scholarships available for funding assistance!

This project is paid for in part by a History Colorado State Historical Fund Grant.

For more information visit SavingPlacesConference.org. Conference questions should be directed to Amanda Barker at abarker@coloradopreservation.org, 303.893.4260 x230. For more information about Colorado Preservation, Inc., visit ColoradoPreservation.org.

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About the Author



ddascalos

Public relations professional, mom, lover of nature and adventure seeker. Love working with folks who are interesting and fun. Give back to my community!
Denver, CO



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