



NEWS RELEASE

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Fruitdale School Awarded State Historical Fund Grant

WHEAT RIDGE, Colo. Feb. 7, 2017 -- On February 1, 2017, the Wheat Ridge Housing Authority (WRHA) was awarded a History Colorado State Historical Fund (SHF) grant for \$198,512. This grant will fund critical exterior restoration work at Fruitdale School, 10803 W. 44th Avenue in Wheat Ridge that the project would otherwise not be able to afford. This includes masonry repair and tuck-pointing, restoration of the original skylights, and in-kind restoration or replacement of exterior windows and doors.

SHF grants are awarded on a competitive basis to projects that demonstrate a public benefit and community support. For the October 2016 grant round, only 16 of 45 general grant applicants were awarded grants, and only \$2.6 million of the \$6.6 million in requests were funded.

"We are thrilled that this project is the recipient of the SHF Grant," stated Patrick Goff, Wheat Ridge city manager. "Funding for the Fruitdale restoration project includes multiple sources, including significant funding from both the City of Wheat Ridge and WRHA, as well as developer equity, a commercial loan, federal and state tax credits and federal HOME funds. The Fruitdale School is truly a local treasure and the SHF Grant is the final major funding source that was needed to properly complete exterior window restoration and masonry repair and tuck-pointing for this historic building."

"This is a wonderful project that demonstrates the strength of public-private partnerships and shows how historic preservation can benefit a community," stated Cynthia Nieb, director of the State Historical Fund.

Fruitdale School was originally designed by noted Denver architect Temple Buell. Since 2013, the property has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties. The two-story school was originally constructed in 1927. Its detailed brickwork is a good example of Art Deco style, including zigzag brickwork on the cornice, brick detailing above the entrance doors, detailed basket-weave brickwork separating the first and second story windows, and multiple-pane windows. The single-story 1954 addition to the building on the west side is significant as an example of a mid-century school with elements of the Prairie and International Styles. Fruitdale is also a significant landmark for its contributions to education and social history as a long-standing school and community gathering space.

In 2015, the Wheat Ridge Housing Authority began exclusive negotiations with Hartman Ely Investments. Under the leadership of developer Jim Hartman, the old school building will officially be reopened as 16 multi-family housing units including five units that will be affordable. A building permit for the entire renovation project was issued last week and renovation of the building is already underway, with interior asbestos abatement being completed this week.

The State Historical Fund provides grants for a variety of preservation projects including restoration and rehabilitation of historic buildings, architectural assessments, archaeological excavations, designation and interpretation of historic places, preservation planning studies, and education and training programs. The Fund was created in 1990 and is administered by History Colorado. The Fund utilizes a portion of the gaming tax revenues from the limited gaming permitted in the towns of Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek. More

than \$286 million in grants has been awarded in all 64 Colorado counties. For more information or to learn how to apply for a grant, visit www.historycolorado.org/oaHP/state-historical-fund.

About The City of Wheat Ridge

The City of Wheat Ridge, located west of Denver with a population of 33,000 residents, is home to a mix of retail/commercial businesses and unique residential neighborhoods. Wheat Ridge is a vibrant community in a prime location, providing easy access to the Denver metro area and to recreation west into the mountains. The City was recently ranked #7 of Colorado's Top 14 Small Cities by Washington D.C.-based WalletHub's "[2016 Best Small Cities in America](#)". Info about Wheat Ridge ci.wheatridge.co.us

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