Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission

End Report: Phase II Community Outreach Event
Journey Museum & Learning Center/RCHPC Virtual Outreach Webinar

*Rapid City - Our History, Our Future: A Conversation About Historic Preservation, Phase II Update*

On June 3, 2020, Vantage Point Historical Services, Inc. (VPHS) conducted a virtual community outreach session in support of the ongoing historic context and comprehensive plan update project currently underway with the Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission (RCHPC). The event was hosted by the Journey Museum & Learning Center (JMLC), utilizing the institution’s Zoom Webinar account. RCHPC Commissioner Brittaney Neiles moderated the event. VPHS historians Dr. Eric Abrahamson and Dr. Eric Zimmer gave a Power Point presentation that reviewed the project’s goals, updated the community on the Phase II progress, offered a road map of work to be conducted during Phase III (including sample “representative types” to be surveyed), and took questions and comments from community participants.

During the Q & A session, two participants expressed an interest in using GIS, 3D imaging, or related technology to help map topics or preserve those that are disappearing from the landscape. Although these avenues have not been explored to date, VPHS and the RCHPC will explore these avenues as we continue to plan for Phase III and future projects.

Another community member emphasized the need to document spaces of importance to Rapid City’s Native American community, including the Sioux San campus, the Osh Kosh Camp, the Sioux Addition, and suggested that the RCPHC should reach out to spiritual leaders and THPOs who may have knowledge about significant spaces the location of which may be noted. In a followup conversation with this community member, VPHS asked for, but did not receive, the names of any particular leaders or information about any additional culturally or spiritually significant locations. Another Native community member thanked the RCHPC’s efforts to be inclusive throughout this project. VPHS and the RCPHC closed the presentation by sharing a City staff member’s email address and shared a link to an account at freesuggestionbox.com, an anonymous feedback app. To date, VHPS has not received any additional comments or feedback.

According to the JMLC, 35 people registered for and attended the event. After the video was posted to Facebook, it reached 455 people, 171 of whom saw the post (this is not the same as “viewing” the video in its entirety) and 19 “engaged” with the video by liking, commenting, sharing, or clicking on the file. On Twitter, the webinar made 110 user impressions, and it reached 100 people on Instagram. All told, the presentation reached as many as 700 people.