

**2019 Montana Historic Preservation Award  
for Outstanding Contribution to Historic Preservation to  
Randy Hafer**

**Remarks by Mark Baumler  
Montana State Historic Preservation Officer  
2019 Preservation Award Ceremony  
Myrna Loy Center, Helena**

**January 18, 2019**

The 2019 award for Outstanding Contributions to Historic Preservation is presented to Randy Hafer of Billings.

Randy's architectural education began at Stanford University where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Architecture. He followed this up with a Master of Architecture degree from Yale. After acquiring his degrees, Randy found himself in Chicago for the first 11 years of his early professional career. However, in 1992, he returned to his hometown of Billings to continue his passion for architecture. Seven years later, in 1999, Randy founded High Plains Architects in Billings.

Randy realized that many historic buildings can be adapted to new uses while still retaining the historic character and fiber of the building that makes it significant.

Randy's early interest in historic preservation is illustrated by one of High Plains

Architect's first projects, the renovation of a 1918 downtown warehouse, One South Broadway, historically known as the Armour Cold Storage Building. After the renovation, Randy moved the office into the National Register-listed building in 2001. Continuing to live the mission, Randy renovated the 1893 Klos Building directly across the street, relocating the High Plains office there in 2008.

In addition to the preservation of historic and National Register-listed buildings, Randy also pursues LEED – or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design - certification for many projects. To date, he counts 12 LEED Platinum buildings and eight certified historic tax credit projects to his credit. Randy and High Plains Architects meld a unique blend of historic preservation and green building practices, following historic preservation guidelines including the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Randy originally focused his efforts on projects in-and-around Billings, but has expanded his sphere to include redevelopment projects and feasibility studies in numerous historic communities big and small around Montana.

His latest project is the revitalization of the National Register-listed historic Billings Hardware Building on Montana Avenue in Billings. The plans include a

renovation that will yield main floor and basement retail space, and two stories consisting of one-and-two-bedroom apartments.

Randy serves on many local and state boards and commissions, including the Downtown Billings Partnership Board, and the Billings Improvement District Board. His enthusiasm is obvious as he has traveled the state and country speaking on the issues of historic preservation, sustainability, and redevelopment.

Randy's high standards serve as a model for public and private historic preservation projects. He is a highly respected professional and source of tremendous preservation knowledge - knowledge which he is happy and eager to share. Please join me in thanking Randy Hafer with the 2019 Montana Historic Preservation Award for Outstanding Contribution to Historic Preservation in the State of Montana.