

LOCATION CHANGE – Due to the rain, the ceremony will take place at the Utilities Building at 1410 Forest Street (under the overhang.) Event time remains 11 a.m.

For Immediate Release

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Media Advisory

City of Eau Claire Receives 2023 Historic Preservation Award from Wisconsin Historical Society

WHAT:

The City of Eau Claire has received a 2023 Board of Curators Award from the Wisconsin Historical Society for exceptional historic preservation work on the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha Railroad Bridge (“High Bridge”) Project. The Wisconsin Historical Society will present the award on Friday to the City of Eau Claire.

WHO:

Christian W. Øverland, the Ruth and Hartley Barker Director & CEO, Wisconsin Historical Society will present the award to Dave Solberg, Assistant City Manager and City Engineer.

Others attending include:

Ned Noel, Planning Manager, City of Eau Claire; Lane Berg, Community Services Director, City of Eau Claire; Peter Baumgartner, Associate Planner, City of Eau Claire, Dr. John Mann, Public History, UW-Eau Claire and Janet Seymour, Director of Outreach, Wisconsin Historical Society and Landmark Commission members.

WHEN:

Friday, October 13 at 11 a.m.

WHERE:

1040 Forest Street Eau Claire, WI 54703

(Parking by City of Eau Claire Utilities Building/parking deck)

Award presentation at bridge overlook/trail, the west side of the bridge off 1st Street OR the overhang of the City of Eau Claire Utilities Building in case of inclement weather

WHY:

The sustained effort of the citizens of Eau Claire advocating for the preservation of the High Bridge and the response from City Planning Staff and City Council in recognizing the historic significance of this resource is deserving of this award. The Eau Claire Landmarks Commission designated the High Bridge as a local landmark in 2016. It has since been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. The City positioned a webcam that provided the public with live access of the restoration project. A local photographer took daily photographs and posted them on a Facebook page titled, "Keeping the History Alive." Local media outlets covered the whole process with many articles from the deliberation and decision making, through the construction project and to the ribbon cutting.

The project is an integral part of a broad effort to revitalize downtown Eau Claire. For at least the next 30-50 years, the High Bridge will continue to be a vital part of the City's bike and pedestrian trail system. This is an exemplary example of historic preservation and collaboration of ordinary citizens, historic preservation professionals, municipal staff, and elected officials.

HOW:

For interviews or additional information, please contact Rebecca Werner at 608-261-2468 or Email: rebecca.werner@wisconsinhistory.org

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