

PRESS RELEASE

Ogden City Secures Historic Forest Service Building, a Central Piece to the Nine Rails Creative District



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Ogden, UT— Preserving a cornerstone of the city's art deco architecture, Ogden City has officially completed the acquisition of the historic U.S. Forest Service Building. Constructed in 1934, this architectural landmark will now serve as a vital hub within the Nine Rails Creative District, reinforcing the city's commitment to historic preservation, cultural vibrancy, and quality housing.

In December 2024, Ogden City's Redevelopment Agency Board (RDA), approved the purchase of the building at 507 25th Street for \$3.6 million as part of an effort to sustain Ogden's unique character while strengthening the surrounding neighborhood. The RDA's purchase of the building is funded by tax increment financing (TIF) from the Adams Community Reinvestment Area. TIF represents the new property tax revenues generated by development and investments in the area.

"Preserving the historic nature and uniqueness of the Forest Service Building is important to this city, to our future," says Ogden City Mayor, Ben Nadolski. "It's exciting to bring this space back to life and transform its purpose as a place to foster creativity. As we build out the Nine Rails Creative District, the entire community will benefit from a thriving center for art, culture, and innovation."

After the General Service Administration declared the building surplus federal property, it became available for purchase by the Ogden City RDA. With a vision of adapting the vacant structure into a hub for creativity, the city has partnered with Giv Group, a developer known for sustainable and community-driven housing projects. Wadman Corporation and Sanders Associates Architecture are collaborating with Giv Group to transform this landmark into a dynamic community space in Ogden's downtown area.

For over a year and a half, Preservation Utah worked closely with the General Services Administration to place a preservation easement on the Forest Service Building, ensuring its historic integrity will be safeguarded in perpetuity. Preservation easements are one of the most effective tools for protecting historic properties, as they create a legally binding agreement that prevents future alterations or demolitions that would compromise a building's character. This measure guarantees that the Forest Service Building will continue to serve as a testament to Ogden's architectural heritage for generations to come.

Preservation Utah has been managing preservation easements throughout Utah for over 40 years and currently protects more than 130 historic properties across the state. We are thrilled to add the U.S. Forest Service Building to our growing portfolio of safeguarded landmarks.

With the building now protected, Preservation Utah will collaborate with Ogden City and partners to support the adaptive reuse of the structure, ensuring that historic preservation remains a guiding principle as it is transformed into a hub for creativity within the Nine Rails Creative District. The building's connection to other architectural landmarks in the city—such as Ogden High School and the municipal building, both designed by Leslie Hodgson and Myrl McClenahan—further underscores its significance.

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"The placement of a preservation easement on the U.S. Forest Service Building is a major achievement in protecting this landmark," says Brandy Strand, Executive Director of Preservation Utah. "This ensures that the building's defining Art Deco elements and its connection to Ogden's past remain intact while allowing for thoughtful adaptation that meets the needs of the Nine Rails Creative District."

Ogden City, Preservation Utah, and Giv Group look forward to developing a successful project that will cultivate community through history, art, and culture for decades to come.

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