



Restoration Exchange Omaha
1516 Cuming Street
Omaha, NE 68102

April 7, 2023

Dear Friends and Supporters,

A few years ago, I stepped in to temporarily lead Restoration Exchange Omaha. At that time, the organization was almost five years old and had forged a reputation for its feisty defense of endangered historic buildings. REO also carried out pre-established and time-honored enterprises including a conference for restoration lovers, a historic neighborhood home tour, and walking tours of historic streets. And all of this was accomplished with just the Executive Director and a dedicated volunteer workforce.

What was my task? Keep REO operational until it could afford to hire additional professional staff. In December of 2019, with a fundraising plan tucked under our arms, we visited our first major donor. We optimistically waited for their reply as the new year began. However, the world slowly began to shift, then tilt, and by March we faced a transformed reality.

The global pandemic thwarted our work. Civil unrest questioned our position on preservation and our relevance in the community. And, mishandling of our nonprofit status by the Internal Revenue Service threatened our existence. My new task was to steer REO through these predicaments. As of last August, with the IRS issue resolved, we finally stabilized and moved out of crisis mode.

And now, it is time for me to retire. My last official day as Executive Director is May 1, 2023. My experience here, although suspenseful and challenging at times, was always rewarding. I am honored to have worked with, and for, all of you!

I have confidence in President, Tim Reeder, and his Board of Directors. They are capable, passionate, and dedicated. In their hands, they will ensure REO remains the historic preservation group Omaha deserves.

As always, we genuinely appreciate your support.

Warm regards,

Laura Shiffermiller
Executive Director