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NEWS RELEASE

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Visit to Dubuque Inspires Sustainable Preservationist

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Patrice Frey came to Dubuque last week to participate in the City's second annual Growing Sustainable Communities conference and she left optimistic.

Frey is the director of sustainability research for the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP), a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities. She posted a blog entry on Tuesday on the NTHP's website (www.preservationnation.org) entitled, "Dispatch from Dubuque: Luring People Back to the Heartland." Her post begins with a discussion of the challenge presented by the national population shift from sustainably designed, older, industrial cities in the northeast and midwest to centers of "sprawling, suburbia" in the south and southwest.

She then explores the fate of those smaller, industrial cities. "Designed before widespread use of the automobile, these communities were built more compactly out of necessity. These neighborhoods tend to be dense, walkable, feature mixed uses, and are very often accessible to public transit," she wrote. "These places contain the very features that are promoted by Smart Growth and New Urbanist advocates today. And that's to say nothing of their charm and character."

Frey went on to describe her visit to Dubuque last week and meeting with local leaders and property owners to learn about Dubuque's plans for the sustainable redevelopment of the Historic Millwork District. "Historic preservation is at the very core of Dubuque's sustainable redevelopment effort; the city recognizes the need to reuse existing buildings in their efforts to be more sustainable, and is determined to improve energy efficiency, and reduce water usage in these buildings as well. The Historic Millwork project also includes a significant social component, and is connecting disadvantaged youth to jobs produced as part of the project."

"I left Dubuque optimistic -- thinking that perhaps this is the beginning of a way to address our seemingly intractable demographic challenge," said Frey. "And I'm wondering if the National Trust would be interested in opening a field office in Dubuque. I know exactly where I want to live."

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To read the full blog entry, visit <http://blogs.nationaltrust.org/preservationnation/?p=3105>