

W H O ' S W H O

I want to

KNOW WHO'S WHO

(AND WHO DO I TALK TO?)

in my neighborhood.

If you're looking for someone to talk to about the preservation of your neighborhood, check out the people and resources below. This list is not comprehensive, and inclusion here does not mean endorsement. Additional resources may be listed below.

Preservation in Philadelphia

PHLpreservation.org

City Representatives

Find contact information for your district contact person and the council members at-large below.

phlcouncil.com

City agencies and departments involved in these issues

Philadelphia Historical Commission

Administers the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places and other associated programs, and offers technical assistance to owners of property on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The Philadelphia Historical Commission includes mayor-appointed commission members and civil service staff employees. The Commission's sub-committees are comprised of volunteers from various professions within the preservation field, including historians, lawyers, etc.

phila.gov/historical/pages/default.aspx

Philadelphia City Planning Commission

Oversees the Philadelphia2035 planning process, including the development of district plans. The Citizens Planning Institute is housed within the Philadelphia City Planning Commission.

phila.gov/cityplanning/pages/default.aspx

Philadelphia Zoning Board of Adjustment

Hears and decides appeals in zoning matters, including applications for variances to deviate from the official zoning code. Developers and property owners applying for a zoning variance must meet with Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) or City Council representatives to review their proposed project.

phila.gov/li/Pages/Appeals.aspx

Philadelphia Department of Commerce

Administers the Storefront Improvement Program and various commercial corridor programs.

phila.gov/commerce/pages/default.aspx

The City of Philadelphia Business Services

A useful clearinghouse of all the resources that can help businesses, big and small, set up shop in Philadelphia. The website breaks down all of the steps to start and manage a business, and also offers place-specific guidelines about zoning, incentives, and agencies like the Philadelphia Historical Commission.

business.phila.gov

Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia

Supports programs and policies for businesses of all sizes. The Chamber includes programs for small businesses and also works toward policies that support small business development, including wage and business tax policies, permitting, and work with commercial corridors.

chamberphl.com

African American Chamber of Commerce

Mirrors much of the work of the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia, but with a focus on supporting the economic empowerment and growth of African-American businesses in the region. They offer a large selection of programs, speaker series and resources.

aachamber.com

Philadelphia Art Commission

A design review board for architecture and public art that uses City funds or is located on publicly-owned land (for example, streets). The Art Commission also reviews signage on private property in certain high-traffic areas, including the Convention Center, Center City, Parkway, Vine Street, Washington Square, Independence Hall, and Rittenhouse Square.

phila.gov/artcommission/pages/default.aspx

State and Federal agencies involved in these issues

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

The official history agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. PHMC also functions as the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (each state has a SHPO). In that role, PHMC oversees various preservation programs, including grant and tax credit programs, the historical marker program, environmental review and disaster planning, and other community preservation initiatives. One of PHMC's largest responsibilities is its review and advisory role for nominations submitted to the National Register of Historic Places for sites located within Pennsylvania, and a similar role in the review of Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit projects. PHMC also administers the State Historic Preservation Incentive Tax Credit Program, together with the Department of Community and Economic Development.

phmc.pa.gov

Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development

A state agency with the mission to enhance investment opportunities for businesses and attract new businesses to Pennsylvania. DCED administers the State Historic Preservation Incentive Tax Credit Program with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

dced.pa.gov/programs/historic-preservation-tax-credit-hptc

Pennsylvania Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

Provides free consulting and low-cost training to help current and future small business owners successfully operate. The SBDC offers an array of seminars through their local partners. In Philadelphia, SBDC works with the Wharton Small Business Development Center (WSBDC) at Penn and the Temple Small Business Development Center, with have both been active since the early 1980s. Their course offerings and trainings are found on their websites.

whartonsbdc.wharton.upenn.edu

fox.temple.edu/institutes-and-centers/small-business-development-center

National Park Service

Administers the National Register of Historic Places and the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit, and offers free technical advice through its Preservation Briefs.

nps.gov/nr

nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives.htm

nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs.htm

Local organizations working on these issues

Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia

The Philadelphia region's nonprofit preservation leader, dedicated to the protection and appropriate development of Greater Philadelphia's historic resources, including buildings, communities, and landscapes.

preservationalliance.com

Young Friends of the Preservation Alliance

A program of the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, YFPA serves as a forum for young professionals with a passion for historic preservation.

preservationalliance.com/what-we-do/yfpa

Partners for Sacred Places

The only national, non-sectarian, nonprofit organization focused on building the capacity of congregations of historic sacred places. Partners for Sacred Places offers programs nationwide, but is based in Philadelphia.

sacredplaces.org

Philadelphia Archaeological Forum

A nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of archaeological resources in the City of Philadelphia.

phillyarchaeology.net

**Local historical societies, including
(but not limited to):**

Chestnut Hill Conservancy

chconservancy.org/about

East Falls Historical Society

eastfallshistoricalsociety.com

Historical Society of Frankford

frankfordhistoricalsociety.org

Germantown Historical Society

germantownhistory.org

University City Historical Society

uchs.net

Historical Society of Tacony

historictacony.org

Northeast Philadelphia History Network

nephillhistory.com

Preservation Pennsylvania

A statewide membership organization that assists Pennsylvania communities and groups to protect and utilize the historic resources they want to preserve. It also monitors state legislative activity, publishes a newsletter, and administers a grant program for Pennsylvania preservation projects.

preservationpa.org

National Trust for Historic Preservation

A privately funded nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC, with a national emphasis on research and advocacy for historic preservation.

savingplaces.org

Pennsylvania Downtown Center

The only statewide nonprofit dedicated solely to the revitalization of the Commonwealth's core communities. PDC provides outreach, technical assistance, and educational services.

padowntown.org

Community Design Collaborative

The Community Design Collaborative provides pro bono preliminary design services to nonprofit organizations in greater Philadelphia. Several CDC projects have focused on older buildings and properties.

cdesignc.org

Free Library of Philadelphia

Offers online resources for small businesses. They also offer the Business Resources and Innovation Center with one-on-one consulting and special resources.

libwww.freelibrary.org/programs

Press outlets that cover these issues

PlanPhilly

A project of WHYY News, providing in-depth, original reporting on Philadelphia's neighborhoods with a focus on urban design and planning, transportation, and development. (PlanPhilly was created in 2006 as a project of PennPraxis; it was incubated and supported by PennDesign and PennPraxis until March 2015, when it became part of WHYY News.)

planphilly.com

Hidden City Philadelphia

A nonprofit and press outlet that fosters public dialogue by exploring the intersection of people and place, and the tension between the past and the possible future. Hidden City hosts events, including tours, and covers history, planning, preservation, architecture, and design in Philadelphia.

hiddencityphila.org

Curbed Philly

The local outlet of the national news outfit Curbed, covering breaking news and place-based stories about the built environment in Philadelphia.

philly.curbed.com

UrbanPHL Facebook group

An informal forum to keep up with news and share opinions about planning, development, and urban design in Philadelphia.

facebook.com/groups/greaterphiladelphiaplanners

For research online

Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network

A collection of geographic resources from more than a dozen local repositories. Historic maps and atlases are available for viewing alone or in comparison to current maps in an interactive maps viewer.

PhilaGeoHistory.org

Philadelphia Architects and Buildings

An image-rich portal to historical and architectural information for over 250,000 structures, as well as biographies and references to more than 20,000 architects, buildings, contractors, and firms.

PhiladelphiaBuildings.org

PhillyHistory.org

The City of Philadelphia's photo archive, which contains over 2 million photo records that date from the late 1800s. The site also includes a historic street index, chronicling changes in street names over time, and articles on various topics related to historic sites, neighborhoods, urban planning, events, and people in Philadelphia history.

PhillyHistory.org

Temple Special Collections Research Center

The principal repository for and steward of Temple Libraries' rare books, manuscripts, archives, and University records. Temple's Digital Collections site offers free worldwide access to the unique primary historical and cultural resources held by the Temple University Libraries, as well as to selected scholarly works and other publications produced at Temple.

library.temple.edu/scrc

University of Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Theses

A collection of theses from the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate Program in Historic Preservation.

repository.upenn.edu/hp_theses

Workshop of the World

A collection of industrial, manufacturing, process, architectural, and businesses histories for Philadelphia since 1683.

workshopoftheworld.com

Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia Publications/Resources

PAGP includes several surveys, inventories, and report libraries on its website, including resources specific to African American heritage and a Midcentury Modern Initiative.

preservationalliance.com/planning-research-2

preservationalliance.com/preservation-alliance-publications

Pennsylvania's Cultural Resources Geographic Information System (CRGIS)

A map-based inventory of the historic and archaeological sites and surveys stored in the files of the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO). The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) has been collecting information concerning archaeological sites and historic resources for nearly a century.

dot7.state.pa.us/crgis

National Archives

Features a number of databases, online guides, and publications that can help in researching ancestry, military, federal, foreign policy, maritime, aviation, science and technology, and other records.

archives.gov/research/start/online-tools.html

loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh

Catalogued by the Library of Congress

» Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS)

Established in 1933 during the Great Depression, HABS is an active collection of photographs, measured drawings, and written histories of structures and sites around the United States. Many buildings and sites in Philadelphia have been documented as part of this program in the decades since HABS was created.

» **Historic American Engineering Record (HAER)**

A partner program of HABS, the HAER program was established in 1969 to document historic mechanical and engineering artifacts.

» **Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS)**

Created in 2000 to document historic American landscapes.

loc.gov/pictures/item/2009632512

Research facilities

Athenaeum of Philadelphia

A special collections library and museum founded in 1814 to collect materials “connected with the history and antiquities of America, and the useful arts, and generally to disseminate useful knowledge” for public benefit. The Athenaeum’s collections include architecture and interior design history, particularly for the period 1800 to 1945.

philaathenaem.org

Philadelphia Historical Commission

The Commission maintains hundreds of files on historic buildings, sites, and objects in Philadelphia, including properties that are listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places and others that may be eligible. Contents of the files may vary in thoroughness.

phila.gov/historical/pages/default.aspx

Historical Society of Pennsylvania

One of the oldest historical societies in the United States, with a collection of 600,000 printed items and more than 21 million manuscript and graphic items.

hsp.org

Library Company of Philadelphia

A rare book and research library with collections documenting the history and background of American culture from the Colonial period to the Civil War.

librarycompany.org

Free Library of Philadelphia

Includes an extensive collection of materials that can be used to research the history of buildings in Philadelphia. A guide to their collections and other resources in Philadelphia is available below.

freelibrary.org

libwww.freelibrary.org/faq/guides/HouseHistory.pdf

University of Pennsylvania’s Architectural Archives

Preserves the works of more than 400 designers from the 17th century to the present.

design.upenn.edu/architectural-archives/about

What about other cities?

This Neighborhood Preservation Toolkit focuses specifically on Philadelphia, but of course, there are cities and towns all over the country trying to figure out how to preserve their older homes and neighborhoods. If you're interested in learning more about how neighborhood preservation works in other cities, here are a few good places to start.

Preservation Directory

If you're looking for the "Who's Who" of preservation around the country (rather than just here in Philadelphia), then the Preservation Directory website might be a good place to start. You can find listings of historical societies, museums, organizations, agencies, and professionals working in preservation throughout the United States and Canada. The website also includes a preservation library, job postings, related businesses, etc.

preservationdirectory.com/HistoricalPreservation/Home.aspx

Philadelphia Historic Preservation Task Force: Best Practices Research

As one of the first projects for the Mayor's Task Force on Historic Preservation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation did a lot of research on how Philadelphia compares to other cities in terms of the age of its buildings, the size and responsibilities of its Historical Commission, the outreach and education efforts around preservation issues, the economic impact of Philadelphia's older neighborhoods, etc. Their report

offers examples from other cities that could be adopted or expanded here in Philadelphia (as well as a lot of examples of things that Philadelphia already does well!). You can find the report on the PHL Preservation website: it was the first white paper published, titled *Preservation in Philadelphia*.

phlpreservation.org/reports

Atlas of ReUrbanism

Also from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Atlas of ReUrbanism offers a wealth of research on the age and impact of older buildings in various cities.

» Fact Sheets

The Atlas' fact sheets offer a high-level report on cities ranging from Atlanta to Anchorage, from Buffalo to Tulsa, with Philadelphia in the mix (of course!). So, although you won't find neighborhood-specific information in these fact sheets, they do offer a lot of really important information about the character of older buildings in cities all over the country.

forum.savingplaces.org/act/research-policy-lab/atlas/atlas-factsheet

» Stories

The Atlas of ReUrbanism also includes stories that flesh out the numbers in the fact sheets. These brief articles about cities around the country can help advocates in Philadelphia understand how other cities and towns have cared for their older buildings and neighborhoods.

forum.savingplaces.org/act/research-policy-lab/atlas/atlas-stories