



What's Next?

The recommendations that the Historic Preservation Task Force will make to the Mayor later this year are just the beginning of making the city's preservation policy stronger. There are always opportunities for you to get involved to make these recommendations a reality.

Get Involved

Participate in your civic group.

Civic groups work to improve a community's quality of life through improved public spaces, development meetings, historic preservation, tree plantings and other programs. If your neighborhood doesn't have one, start one with your neighbors.

Apply to take Citizens Planning Institute (CPI) classes.

Come learn about zoning, development and planning. Check out citizensplanninginstitute.org.

Contact your Councilmember.

Tell your Councilmember that you support the HPTF recommendations and want to see any legislation that's needed to make them happen.



Nominate a historic resource.

Nominate an important site in your area so that it's protected from inappropriate changes or demolition. For more information check out phlpreservation.org.

Attend Historic Commission meetings.

To receive email updates and view agendas visit phlpreservation.org

Start or join a "Friends of" group.

Many parks, libraries and cultural institutions have a "Friends of" group that helps raise money and supports the facility. If your neighborhood doesn't have one, start one with other neighbors.

Benefits of Preservation

Older buildings attract people

People like old buildings. Their various materials, styles and histories provide interest and variety in the neighborhood and help people feel "grounded" in the area's history.

Older buildings are reminders of a city's culture

Tourists and long-time residents can see the cultural history of an area. These buildings give a sense of permanency and heritage to the neighborhood.

Older buildings attract new businesses

Vibrant commercial corridors with charm and uniqueness that older buildings can provide attract new businesses and industries. Companies will relocate to communities that offer their workers a higher quality of life, which is enhanced with historic preservation programs.

Older buildings help the environment

Retaining and reusing older buildings keep materials that would otherwise end in a landfill, reducing the waste. Older buildings were usually designed with energy-conserving features that take advantage of natural light, cross-ventilation, and climate appropriate materials.

Older buildings provide quality-of-life benefits

Most older communities have a human-scale environment and offer the opportunity to live and work in attractive surroundings. These walkable neighborhoods allow people to come together and experience better access to commercial areas and institutions, which add vibrancy to the neighborhood.

Older buildings give communities a voice in their future

By participating in the survey and designation processes, citizens can help direct their communities' path. Making these decisions together in a structural way – rather than behind closed doors – gives everyone involved a sense of empowerment and confidence.

Older buildings retain their economic value

Historic district designation encourages people to buy and rehabilitate properties because they hold their value longer than new construction areas and the investment is protected over time. Buildings in historic districts appreciate at greater rates and hold their value longer than new construction.

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