



City of Palo Alto Historic Resources Board Staff Report

(ID # 6448)

Report Type:**Meeting Date: 12/10/2015****Summary Title: Historic Preservation Work Program****Title: Historic Preservation Work Program****From: City Manager****Lead Department: Historic Resources Board**

Recommendation

Staff requests that the HRB review the attached recommended work program (see Attachment A) and provide any clarifications, corrections, and/or additions. Following review and comment by the HRB, staff will transmit the recommended work program to the City Council, and will seek Council's input on the program elements, as well as permission to proceed as staff resources allow.

Background

The City Council and the HRB conducted a Study Session on May 6, 2015. At the meeting, Council and HRB members provided comments and recommendations on matters related to Palo Alto's historic preservation work program and activities. No actions were taken. A recording can be found at <http://midpenmedia.org/city-council-special-meeting-3/>.

Discussion

Based on the matters discussed at the Study Session and at various HRB meetings, staff compiled the HRB's recommended multi-year historic preservation work program items as listed in Attachment A. This work program was developed using the HRB's expert knowledge of topics and issues relevant to historic preservation in Palo Alto, and on the previous direction that was provided by Council on May 6, 2015.

Prepared by: Matthew Weintraub, Planner

Reviewed by: Jodie Gerhardt, AICP, Current Planning Manager

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Historic Preservation Work Program 12.03.15 (PDF)

Recommended Historic Preservation Work Program
12/03/15

<i>Program Item</i>	<i>HRB's Proposed Activities</i>
1. Public Outreach and Education	Conduct outreach and education to property owners, architects and design professionals, land developers, and members of the general public, in order to facilitate and encourage input on historic preservation work program items and other preservation topics. Specific methods may include: HRB informational hearings and community workshops; preservation bulletins and hand-outs; publication of information and materials on the City's website; direct mailings to owners and/or organizations; presentations to owners, agencies and/or organizations; and partnerships with local preservation organizations.
2. Certified Local Government	Make full use of the benefits available to Palo Alto as a current Certified Local Government (CLG) by the State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), including: apply for CLG grants to implement selected preservation work program items; participate in preservation conferences, workshops, and trainings for Board members and staff; and seek technical advice and guidance from OHP staff on long range preservation work program items.
3. Professorville Historic Design Guidelines	Complete the Professorville Historic Design Guidelines in order to provide property owners, architects, HRB and staff with tools to evaluate proposed alterations and new construction. The multi-year project began at Council's direction in 2011. It is partially funded by a 2015-2016 CLG grant.
4. Modern Age Context Statement	Develop a Modern Age context statement for Palo Alto, in order to facilitate understanding and appreciation of "recent past" resources, such as Mid-Century Modern architecture and Silicon Valley history. The project may be eligible for a 2016-2017 CLG grant.
5. Survey Update	In coordination with the results of the Comprehensive Plan Update, develop a proposal for a multi-year survey update to address specific information needs in Palo Alto, which may include: "recent past"

**Recommended Historic Preservation Work Program
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<i>Program Item</i>	<i>HRB's Proposed Activities</i>
	resources; resources located in special planning areas; resources that may be affected by long range plans or programs; and resources of special interest to property owners and the community at large. Survey activities may be eligible for CLG grants.
6. Historic Inventory Update	Contact owners of properties in the Greenmeadow and Green Gables districts (which are listed in the National and California Registers, but which are not locally designated), to provide information and gauge interest in nominating the districts for inclusion in the City's Historic Inventory; and pursue nominations with owner support.
7. Code Update	Assist the Council, other Boards and Commissions, and City staff with the multi-year, multi-phase effort to update sections of the Municipal Code, in order to make clarifications, update procedures, and/or adjust review standards to the benefit of the community. Future code updates to be considered may include provisions of the Historic Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 16.49) and/or other code sections that relate to the disposition of historic properties.
8. Study Sessions	Develop procedures for providing and/or requiring HRB Study Sessions prior to formal review, in order to make available HRB advice to owners and applicants early in the design development process.
9. Preservation Incentives	Review existing local code incentives for preservation in Palo Alto, as well as those of other California communities, and develop proposals for making incentives more widely available to historic property owners, more beneficial to the general public, and more effective in preservation.