



Historic Preservation Commission

**DRAFT Work Plan
2025**

Goals should be consistent with the City’s goals:

- Maintain a community where residents and visitors feel safe
- Ensure a strong financial outlook through careful planning, sustainable service levels, and fiscal sustainability
- Promote a high quality of life that current and future generations can afford to call home
- Invest in infrastructure to serve the needs of the community
- Nurture an organizational culture where employees are recognized for the delivery of high-quality services to the community

Staffing Department: Community Development Department

GOALS	DUE DATE	TRACKING MILESTONES	STATUS
1. Ordinance/Policy Updates	Upon City Council Direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an ordinance amendment to require a review process for properties 50 years or older and assess community support for the ordinance. • Update historic district eligibility criteria, including Mills Act eligibility for contributing resources. 	Subject to City Council Direction
2. Update Historic Resources Inventory	On-going and as staffing support permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue field survey and research with assistance from SDSU/LMHS • Develop a phased program to implement update procedures. • Develop assessment ranking criteria. • Bring completed submissions forward for consideration. 	On-going
3. Improve public understanding of historic preservation.	On-going and as staffing support permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop outreach tools, such as a web page, story maps, and brochures to promote the City’s historic preservation program and the benefits of historic preservation. 	On-going
4. Regular Duties as identified in LMMC 25.01.060. G.	As-needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to review applications for Certificates of Appropriateness • Continue to recommend to the City Council requests for local historic landmark designation • Encourage the protection, enhancement, appreciation and use of structures of historical, cultural, architectural, community or aesthetic value. 	On going



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LMMC 25.01.060 - Historic preservation commission.

G. Powers and Duties. The Commission shall have the power and duty to:

1. Conduct a continuing survey of all cultural resources in the City which the Commission, on the basis of information available or presented to it, has reason to believe may be eligible for designation as a historic landmark or historic district or for recognition as a structure of merit.
2. Review the La Mesa Historic Resources Inventory according to the criteria set forth in the Historic Preservation Element of the General Plan.
3. Recommend to the City Council amendments to the La Mesa Historic Resources Inventory.
4. Recommend to the City Council that certain areas, places, buildings, structures, natural features, works of art or other improvements having significant historical, cultural, architectural, archaeological, community or aesthetic value as part of the heritage of the City be designated as a historic landmark or historic district.
5. Maintain a local register of designated landmarks and historic districts within the City.
6. Approve or disapprove, in whole or in part, applications for a Certificate of Appropriateness pertaining to alteration, modification, or removal of any exterior architecture feature of a designated landmark or improvement within a historic district.
7. Adopt guidelines to be used by the Commission in reviewing applications for Certificates of Appropriateness.
8. Review and comment upon applications for demolition permits pertaining to designated cultural resources and applications for demolition and alteration permits for cultural resources included in the La Mesa Historic Resources Inventory.
9. Explore means for protection, retention and use of any designated or potential landmark including, but not limited to, appropriate legislation and financing.
10. Recommend and encourage the protection, enhancement, appreciation and use of structures of historical, cultural, architectural, community or aesthetic value which have not been designated as landmarks but are deserving of recognition as structures of merit so as to emphasize their importance in the lifestyle of La Mesa.
11. Encourage public understanding of an involvement in the unique architectural and environmental heritage of the City through educational and interpretative programs. Such may include, but shall not be limited to, lectures, tours, walks, reports, publications, films, open houses, special events.
12. Encourage private efforts to acquire property and raise money on behalf of historic preservation; however, the Commission is specifically denied the power to acquire property or invest therein for or on behalf of itself or the City.
13. Render advice and guidance on any structure at the request of the property owner as time permits (i.e., painting, color, materials, landscaping, fencing, lighting). This advice shall not be construed to impose any controls, but shall be offered in a spirit of friendly help.
14. Investigate and report to the City Council on the use of various federal, state, local or private funding sources and mechanisms available to promote historic resource preservation in the City.
15. Cooperate with local, county, state and federal governments in the pursuit of the objectives of historic preservation.
16. Implement other historic preservation plans and programs including, but not limited to, those listed as Complementary Programs in the General Plan Element.
17. Prepare or cause to be prepared nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, as time permits.
18. Consult with professionals and experts in fields such as archaeology, paleontology, history, preservation, architecture, design and engineering whenever such consultation is desired or necessary.