

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE



FY 2012 WORK PLAN
D.C. HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

June 30, 2011

The State Historic Preservation Office for the District of Columbia is responsible for administering the District's certified historic preservation program under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Among these duties is the preparation of an annual work plan for the preservation programs supported by the federal government.

The Fiscal Year 2012 work plan will guide the SHPO in discharging its federal program responsibilities, awarding any grants, and preparing its annual application for financial support from the Historic Preservation Fund administered by the National Park Service. In FY 2012 (beginning October 1, 2011), the SHPO expects to receive in the neighborhood of about \$500,000 in federal funds to carry out preservation programs and operations.

The annual work plan further implements the preservation goals and objectives described in *Preserving Communities and Character: The Historic Preservation Plan for the District of Columbia (2008-2012)*, the multi-year planning guide approved in 2009 by the National Park Service. The plan is posted on the HPO website at www.preservation.dc.gov, and copies are available from the office upon request, by calling (202) 442-8800.

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FY 2012 ANNUAL WORK PLAN D.C. HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

MISSION

The Historic Preservation Office (HPO) promotes stewardship of the District of Columbia's historic and cultural resources through planning, protection, and public education. HPO is part of the Office of Planning and under the DC Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act, serves as the staff for the Historic Preservation Review Board and Mayor's Agent for historic preservation.

Under the National Historic Preservation Act, HPO also implements federal historic preservation programs as the State Historic Preservation Office for the District of Columbia. This is achieved through the identification and designation of historic properties, review of their treatment, and engagement with the public using a variety of tools to promote awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the city's historic environment.

FY 2012 GOALS

During FY 2012, HPO proposes a series of initiatives to implement the Historic Preservation Plan for the District of Columbia. A more complete description of the goals, objectives, and strategies can be found in the Preservation Plan and the complementary Historic Features Element of the DC Comprehensive Plan. Both of these documents are available on the HPO website at www.preservation.dc.gov.

GOAL 1: IDENTIFY AND RECOGNIZE HISTORIC RESOURCES

OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGIES for defining historic significance: Recognize the historic image of the national capital as a fundamental aspect of its character. Adopt an encompassing approach to historic significance. Trace many roots and celebrate the diversity of our history. Anticipate the need to preserve the record of our own time.

INITIATIVE 1.1

Community Heritage Program: Continue this program, undertaken in partnership with the Humanities Council of Washington, DC, as a major focus of HPO's community outreach efforts. Maintain a community outreach coordinator to manage the program and related activities.

Archaeology: Routinely evaluate proposed historic landmarks and districts for potential archaeological significance, and address eligible archaeological resources in designation actions.

Modernism: Seek owner support for designation of significant examples of mid-century modernism worthy of recognition and protection.

DC Inventory: Improve the availability of public information about historic sites through increased publicity on the HPO website, and make progress toward an improved web-accessible interactive version of the DC Inventory of Historic Sites.

OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGIES for identifying potential historic properties: Identify properties through a comprehensive program of thematic and area surveys. Organize surveys to proceed along a logical plan with clear priorities. Identify not just buildings but all types of potential historic properties. Include owners and organizations in the survey process.

INITIATIVE 1.2

Community Heritage Program: Use this program to involve the public in identifying and documenting historic resources significant to their communities. Focus on the broad diversity of

the District's social history and neighborhoods, with special attention to African American history and East of the River neighborhoods.

Survey and Identification: Make progress in developing a comprehensive GIS interface for existing survey data (on nearly 150,000 buildings) to help analyze and identify potential historic properties. Research undocumented buildings and continue the cross-referencing of data to current conditions. Begin developing a more complete GIS record of designated and eligible historic properties.

Thematic Studies: Focus research efforts on key themes such as DC government properties, neighborhood commercial corridors, African American heritage, alley buildings and other affordable dwelling types, historic cemeteries, early settlement areas like Tenleytown and Brightwood, development associated with Mary Foote Henderson, and the work of concrete pioneer John Joseph Earley.

OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGIES for designating historic landmarks and historic districts:

Recognize and protect significant properties using objective standards. Encourage government agencies and owners to nominate their properties. Use historic district designations as the means to recognize and preserve areas whose significance lies primarily in the character of the community as a whole. Ensure that the views of the public are solicited and given careful consideration.

INITIATIVE 1.3

Historic Landmarks: Work directly with property owners and community groups to seek support for designation applications submitted to HPRB. Make recommendations on at least 10 applications for designation and National Register listing. Nominate key unprotected eligible properties, such as Meridian Hill properties associated with the plans of Mary Foote Henderson.

Historic Districts: Forward the proposed George Washington Historic District to HPRB after completion of design guidelines and public outreach. Consider historic districts or expansions in other areas where there are community sponsors and strong community support.

National Register: Consistently forward all new DC designations to the National Register of Historic Places, and maintain the policy of consistent listings for both the DC Inventory and National Register.

GOAL 2: PROTECT HISTORIC RESOURCES

OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGIES for improving and integrating preservation planning:

Give full consideration to preservation concerns in the development of neighborhood plans, campus plans, and major revitalization projects. Involve preservation at the earliest possible stages of planning.

INITIATIVE 2.1

Preservation Planning: Print and distribute the updated Historic Preservation Plan for the District of Columbia. Use in-house historic preservation expertise to support OP neighborhood planning initiatives like the streetcar land use study, small area plans, and new zoning regulations. Solicit public input on the 2013 HPO work plan in June 2012.

Cultural Resources Plans: Build upon the pilot cultural resources plans for Wards 7 and 8 by starting to develop cultural resources plans for Wards 4 and 5. Use these plans to help establish program priorities.

Standards and Guidelines: Continue the effort already begun to update and expand general and neighborhood guidelines. Complete at least two sets of guidelines.

OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGIES for protecting the unique historic plan of Washington:

Preserve the L'Enfant and McMillan plans. Protect and enhance views and vistas. Preserve the historic skyline. Protect historic open spaces and streets. Preserve statuary and civic embellishments. Adhere to historic design principles in alterations to the street plan.

INITIATIVE 2.2

Union Station: Highlight the importance of Union Station as a central accomplishment of the McMillan Plan, and support development of a long-range vision for 21st century improvements that will be as celebrated as the station's illustrious past.

OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGIES for ensuring compatibility between new and old: Promote an effective design review process. Preserve important historic features and encourage compatible new development. Apply design standards in manner that accounts for different levels of significance. Ensure consistency between zoning and design standards for historic properties. Maintain significant open spaces and public areas. Protect historic buildings from demolition.

INITIATIVE 2.3

Project Reviews: Review an estimated 150 federal government, 200 District government, and 4,000 private construction projects for compatibility under DC and federal preservation laws. Continue to focus major efforts on complex projects like St. Elizabeths Hospital, McMillan Reservoir, Walter Reed, and Union Station, as well as public schools, parks, memorials, and government building rehabilitations.

Saint Elizabeths Hospital: Participate in public consultation for the formulation of a mixed-use master plan for the East Campus, including transportation improvements. Continue public consultation on the Federal Emergency Management Agency site. Complete a Memorandum of Agreement on the Shepherd Parkway and roadway access, and continue archaeological survey.

OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGIES for protecting historic landscapes and open space: Preserve the historic natural setting of Washington. Preserve historic landscapes, both natural and designed. Ensure that public works are compatible with the historic context. Preserve landscaped yards in public space. Retain other significant areas of open green space.

INITIATIVE 2.4

Protect the National Mall and historic institutional campuses through continued Section 106 consultation on development plans. Make information on the history, documentation, and eligibility of DC cemeteries available on the HPO website. Prepare design guidelines for construction in public space.

OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGIES for protecting and improving understanding of District archaeological resources: Retain archaeological resources in place where feasible. If sites must be excavated, follow established standards and guidelines. Treat archaeological artifacts as significant public property. Ensure that all data and artifacts are appropriately conserved.

INITIATIVE 2.5

Archaeological Collections Initiative: Continue pursuit of the high priority initiative to establish a federally-compliant curation facility for the District's artifact collections. Expand on the newly created PastPerfect database of existing archaeological collections by integrating new collections data as projects are completed. Continue to integrate paper records, photos, slides, and negatives into PastPerfect, and develop a plan for interpreting the data.

Archaeological Guidelines: Continue the current project to modernize and update the guidelines for archaeological investigations. Build upon the recent updates (for curation standards, new collections submission guidelines, and processing forms) by preparing a new chapter on standards for submission of GIS and other forms of electronic data.

OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGIES for improving enforcement efforts: Protect properties from damage through monitoring and enforcement of the preservation law. Use enforcement authority to ensure compliance with permits. Prevent demolition of buildings by neglect.

INITIATIVE 2.6

Maintain an effective inspections and compliance program to monitor construction for compliance with the preservation law and approved permits. Undertake building inspections and pursue enforcement action including stop work orders, violation notices, and notices of infraction as appropriate.

GOAL 3: CAPITALIZE ON HISTORIC RESOURCES

OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGIES for improving government leadership in preservation: Strengthen supportive working relationships with District and federal agencies. Promote exemplary standards of stewardship for government properties. Evaluate properties for historic potential before disposition. Coordinate District and federal preservation programs and reviews.

INITIATIVE 3.1

DC Government Projects: Complete a Programmatic Agreement with the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), including associated determinations of eligibility, to support a more efficient system for project reviews. Improve the systematic recordation and management of data on determinations of eligibility (DOEs) in order to make the information more readily available. Promote advance planning by coordinating with OP and agency capital planning efforts. Emphasize coordination on key DC projects like public school and library upgrades, recreational facilities, and transportation projects.

OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGIES for creating preservation incentives: Focus financial incentives on low- and moderate-income households. Conserve places of worship, schools, and theaters and reduce inappropriate development pressure on these community resources. Promote preservation of row houses as a resource and as affordable housing.

INITIATIVE 3.2

Historic Homeowner Grants: Continue implementation of the targeted homeowner grant program as an HPO priority. Award the maximum amount of grant funds authorized in the DC budget.

DC Preservation Incentives: Analyze proposed preservation incentive legislation introduced in the DC Council in 2011. Continue to investigate strategies to leverage the value and use of federal preservation incentives.

OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGIES for integrating preservation with economic development

and sustainability goals: Promote preservation as a tool for economic and community development. Support programs to encourage preservation as a business district revitalization strategy. Increase use of programs for promotion of cultural heritage. Promote preservation as environmental and economic sustainability.

INITIATIVE 3.3

Leveraging Federal Dollars: Help owners to obtain federal rehabilitation tax incentives. Use SAFETEA:LU funds to help DDOT with completion of the Barney Circle archaeological project.

Sustainability: Provide technical support to HPRB's sustainability committee in their efforts to improve the linkages between preservation and sustainability. Promote green building practices through preservation design review. Promote rehabilitation of historic buildings for community economic development, affordable housing, and adaptive reuse through tax incentive and other planning programs.

OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGIES for encouraging and supporting preservation advocacy and

partnerships: Increase awareness of and access to historic places. Encourage communication and collaboration among preservation organizations. Recognize the value of cultural heritage and tourism in protecting community identity, promoting preservation, and linking diverse neighborhoods. Promote special events that raise awareness.

INITIATIVE 3.4

Community Support: Promote preservation awareness through partnership projects and public involvement in pending actions on designation and project development. Use regular public notices, website postings, and new media to encourage preservation consciousness and public participation. Provide training opportunities, workshops, and individualized consultation on preservation projects.

Partnership Projects: Co-sponsor the DC Community Heritage Program with the Humanities Council of Washington, DC. Join with Cultural Tourism DC to complete the African American Heritage Trail at 100 sites. Coordinate with the DC Preservation League to present the 9th annual preservation awards program in May 2012. Continue internal and external youth training programs.