

CITY OF SACRAMENTO

PRESERVATION ELEMENT OF THE GENERAL PLAN – Goals & Policies Sections

Adopted by the City Council on April 25, 2000

COMPREHENSIVE, CITYWIDE PRESERVATION PROGRAM

GOAL A: To maintain a comprehensive, citywide preservation program.

Policies –

- A. 1. The City shall promote the recognition, preservation, and enhancement of historic and cultural resources throughout the city.
- A. 2. The City shall promote the preservation, restoration, enhancement, and recognition of historic and cultural resources. Historic and cultural resources include not only sites and structures, but also features such as infrastructure (e.g., bridges, canals, roads, and trails), signs, landscaping and trees, open space areas, lighting, and hardscape (e.g., sidewalks, paving) that are important to the overall context.
- A. 3. The City shall maintain a Preservation Office, Preservation Board, and program with adequate staff to administer the City's governmental preservation functions and programs. The Preservation Office shall be responsible for carrying out an Implementation Plan and reporting annually on its status to the City Council.
- A. 4. The City shall maintain its status as a Certified Local Government (CLG) and make full use of its authority to designate local districts, structures and sites, and apply for State historic preservation fund grants.
- A. 5. The City shall demonstrate leadership through preserving and rehabilitating publicly-owned historic and cultural resources.
- A. 6. The City shall encourage preservation of historic and cultural resources to promote sustainability of its neighborhoods.
- A. 7. The City shall consider historic and cultural resources in its long-term comprehensive planning efforts. To this end, the City shall incorporate specific preservation goals, policies, and programs into Community Plan updates and neighborhood planning efforts, as appropriate.
- A. 8. The City shall implement its preservation goals, policies, and standards, throughout its various departments and functions. To this end, the City shall review and monitor code enforcement procedures and activities to be certain they reinforce preservation goals.
- A. 9. The City shall coordinate with the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) in preservation and historic programs.
- A. 10. The City should support public, quasi-public, and private entities in their preservation efforts.
- A. 11. The City shall explore public/private partnerships in its preservation program efforts, including partnerships with business and education interests, and expansion of shared missions with Sacramento Heritage, Inc..

RESOURCE PRESERVATION

Goal B: To protect and preserve important historic and cultural resources that serve as significant, visible reminders of the City's social and architectural history.

Policies:

- B. 1. The City shall update and enforce the Preservation Ordinance to conform to state and federal guidelines and to meet the objectives of the Preservation Element.
- B. 2. The City shall review new development, alterations, and rehabilitation/remodels in design review areas, preservation areas, and other areas of historic resources for compatibility with the surrounding historic context.
- B. 3. The City shall establish and maintain preservation areas to provide for the preservation and restoration of those areas that are of historic, cultural, or architectural significance.
- B.4. The City shall work with its partners on the local, state, and federal levels to ensure that historic preservation rules and regulations are implemented.
- B.5. The City shall develop and enforce sanctions for non-compliance with City regulations regarding historic and cultural resources.
- B.6. The City shall promote the conservation of historic neighborhoods to encourage preservation

of structures and other features. In these areas, the City shall encourage the maintenance or re-conversion of parkway strips to landscaping, maintenance and replication of historic sidewalk patterns, use of historic street lamps and street signs, and maintenance or restoration of historic park features.

- B. 7. The City shall provide early intervention, through code enforcement and other efforts, for maintenance and safety of historic properties and resources. The City shall encourage maintenance and upkeep of historic properties and resources to avoid the need for major and costly rehabilitation and to reduce risks of demolition or loss through fire.
- B.8. The City shall regard demolition of historic resources as a last resort, to be permitted only after the City determines that the resource retains no reasonable economic use, that demolition is necessary to protect health, safety, and welfare, or that demolition is necessary to proceed with a new project where the benefits of the new project outweigh the loss of the historic resource.
- B.9. The City shall protect heritage trees as important historic resources.
- B.10. The City shall seek to minimize or avoid adverse impacts to historic and cultural resources from natural disasters. To this end, the City shall promote seismic safety, flood protection, and other building programs that preserve, enhance and protect these resources.
- B.11. The City shall ensure the protection of historic and cultural resources with the implementation of an effective emergency response plan.

INVENTORY AND INFORMATION

Goal C: To maintain and expand an inventory of important historic and cultural resources and their settings and retain information important to their understanding.

Policies:

- C.1. The City shall update and expand the City's historic resources inventory on a regular basis.
- C.2. The City shall prepare a comprehensive historic context statement.
- C.3. The City shall establish criteria and standards for researching, surveying, assessing, inventorying, and designating resources consistent with federal and state guidelines and criteria. The City shall also maintain the ability to designate additional sites that may not meet these criteria but should be afforded public recognition and protection.
- C.4. The City shall make non-confidential information in the historic inventory, context, and criteria readily available to the public and other agencies.
- C.5. The City shall identify and evaluate significant monuments, sculptures, fountains, murals, and infrastructure which would contribute to the overall quality of the City.

AWARENESS AND OUTREACH

Goal D: To foster public awareness and appreciation of the city's heritage and its historic and cultural resources.

Policies:

- D.1. The City shall support and recognize private and public preservation work and awareness ceremonies.
- D.2. The City shall encourage identification of historic resources through plaques and markers.
- D.3. The City shall network with other agencies and organizations to promote historic preservation.
- D.4. The City shall encourage and provide assistance to public and private schools to integrate local and architectural history into their curriculums and resources.
- D.5. The City shall foster an awareness of the importance of the preservation of the city's heritage and cultural and historic resources. The City's efforts shall include all ethnic communities, ages, and socioeconomic groups.
- D.6. The City shall increase awareness of the economic benefits of preservation.
- D.7. The City shall act as a conduit for information on historic preservation, information and programs.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Goal E: To identify and protect archaeological resources that enrich our understanding of the early Sacramento area.

Policies:

- E. 1. The City shall maintain generalized information on potentially sensitive archaeological areas. The City shall refer development proposals that may adversely affect archaeological sites to the North Central Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System.
- E. 2. The City shall restrict the circulation of cultural resource locational information to prevent potential site vandalism.
- E.3. The City shall not knowingly approve any public or private project that may adversely affect and archaeological site without first consulting the North Central Information Center (NCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), requiring a site evaluation as may be indicated, and attempting to mitigate any adverse impacts according to the recommendations of a qualified archaeologist. City implementation of this policy shall be guided by Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines (March 1999) or relevant sections as amended. To this end, the City shall require that upon discovery of archaeological resources during excavation or construction, all construction affecting the site shall cease and the contractor shall contact the City Preservation Office or City Environmental Coordinator.
- E. 4. The City shall participate in discussions to establish a regional repository for archaeological artifacts retrieved from local sites and properly curate, interpret, and display objects which are important to Sacramento's history and prehistory.
- E. 5. The City shall encourage the preservation and display of archaeological artifacts in public buildings.

INCENTIVES

Goal F: To provide incentives to encourage owners of historic properties to preserve and rehabilitate their properties.

Policies:

- F. 1. The City shall pursue and support the use of appropriate federal, state, local, and private grants, loans, and tax credits and relief to promote historic preservation.
- F. 2. The City shall seek to develop or support financial, technical, and legal assistance programs to facilitate the development process, loan packaging, rehabilitation, management, and maintenance.
- F. 3. The City shall continue to promote rehabilitation assistance from the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency.
- F. 4. The City shall encourage the adaptive reuse of historic resources where appropriate.
- F. 5. The City shall ensure that its regulations and policies support, encourage, and ease the process for historic rehabilitation and renovations.
- F. 6. The City shall promote heritage tourism as a form of economic development.
- F. 7. The City shall seek to expand the range of economic incentives for preservation and maintenance of historic resources.
- F. 8. The City shall use the State Historical Building code as a regulatory incentive where appropriate.