

October 23, 2024

Historic Resource Update

2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

Prepared for

Tacoma Landmarks Preservation Commission

Prepared by

Architectural Resources Group



Architectural
Resources Group



Today's Goals



- Review key questions we heard in June
- Summarize structural changes
- Discuss draft revised goals
- Review sample policies



Photo courtesy City of Tacoma Facebook page





Past LPC Questions

Some of what we heard at the June LPC meeting:

- Commissioners interested in expanding tools for preservation of cultural sites
- Need to find ways to reduce fees and requirements
- Preservation of small-scale housing is critical
- HP Program as knowledge center – what gets preserved gets validated as knowledge
- May need to expand separation of designation from controls/incentives
- Interested in expanding the capacity & resources of the HP program





Overview of Structural Changes

HP Plan

- Remove HP Plan as a program element and include as full element within the Comprehensive Plan
- Amend policies for consistency with City housing and growth goals
- Depopulate the policies that are redundant with those in other elements
- Account for critical policy areas not currently reflected in historic resources code, such as DEI initiatives, sustainability, and resiliency
- Enhance treatment of cultural resources and Tribal concerns

Code

- Modify the nomination criteria and process for both individual landmarks and historic districts
- Clarify roles of Landmarks and Planning Commissions
- Revise the enforcement and demolition review processes





Policy Audit Principles

Structure and Content:

- Strengthen the connection between goals and policies
- Remove redundant language
- Connect everything to the Vision Statement and Focus Areas and reinforce the overall growth strategy

Language:

- Use more people-centered language that focuses on the experience that the City aims to create.
- Identify accountable parties and parties where possible
- Use a consistent term or terms for those we intend to serve with the plan. Replace “citizen” with a more inclusive term, such as “community member”
- Be more specific about equity terms, existing disparities, and priority groups.



Draft Goals

Existing Goals in Italics



Goal HP-1 Tacoma is a livable community with a strong sense of history. Innovative policies and procedures build upon a depth of knowledge about the history of Tacoma and its residents.

*A Livable Community With a Strong Sense of History
Preservation is Integral to Other Community Goals and Policies
A Detailed Understanding of Tacoma's History Provides a Base for Preservation Efforts
Historic Survey Information Supports All Program Components
The Public Appreciates Tacoma's Diverse History and Its Historic Resources*

Goal HP-2 Preservation efforts support Tacoma as a sustainable community and help the City meet its climate goals.

A Sustainable Community Supported by Preservation Efforts

Goal HP-3 Historic resources are integral features of the public realm. Historic properties are well managed and maintained.

Historic Resources are Integral Features of the Public Realm



Draft Goals

Existing Goals in Italics



Goal HP-4 Historic review processes are efficient, and the Landmarks Preservation Commission operates in a transparent manner.

The City Maintains a Functional, Integrated Preservation Program

Goal HP-5 The preservation ordinance and other related codes are clear, easy to interpret, and they reflect the goals of the preservation program.

*Tacoma's Preservation Program Employs Nationally Recognized Best Practices
Clear and Complete Ordinances Guide the Preservation Program
The City's Project Review and Enforcement Programs Promote Preservation Objectives
Resource Designation Categories Indicate Priorities for Conservation of Resources*

Goal HP-6 Incentives and benefits support appropriate rehabilitation and continued use of historic resources.

*An Economically Vibrant Community Supported by Preservation Activities
Historic Resources are Protected from Demolition*



Draft Goals

Existing Goals in Italics



Goal HP-7 The preservation of Indigenous history and sites are prioritized in Tacoma's historic preservation program. **(NEW GOAL)**

Goal HP-8 Historic Preservation initiatives originate from community organization advocacy. The Department communicates clearly with implementation groups and fosters positive relationships with community partners.

*Practical Education Programs Support Historic Preservation
Community Organizations are Strong Advocates for Historic Preservation
City Departments Collaborate to Promote Historic Preservation*

Goal HP-9 Tacoma's Historic Preservation Program fosters equitable growth and anti-displacement efforts. **(NEW GOAL)**

Goal HP-10 The Historic Preservation program protects more places of significance to Black and other underrepresented communities. **(NEW GOAL)**



Historic Preservation Goals

**Livable
community with
a strong sense of
history**

**Sustainability &
climate goals**

**Black + other
underrepresented
communities**

**Indigenous
history**

**Equitable
Growth & Anti-
Displacement**

**Community
Partnerships**

Public Realm

**Efficient and
transparent**

Incentives

**Clear, easy to
use code**



Sample Policies



**Livable
community
with a
strong sense
of history**

- Maintain a **comprehensive, citywide inventory** of Tacoma's cultural and historic resources.
- **Inclusive context statements.**
- Integrate citywide survey into **community planning efforts.**
- Promote historic preservation's **role in sustainability.**

**Sustainability
& climate
goals**



Sample Policies



Black + other
underrepresented
communities

- **Evaluate and update local criteria** for architectural integrity, survey and assessment practices, and methods of defining eligible district boundaries to ensure they do not perpetuate exclusion of Black heritage.
- **Partner with community-based organizations** in neighborhoods with historically less access to preservation resources
- Allow **hardship exemptions**.
- Ensure **resources specifically for underserved neighborhoods**.
- **Commemorative/cultural register**.



Sample Policies



**Indigenous
history is
prioritized**

- Preserve **archaeological resources**.
- **Partner with indigenous communities**.
- Support **adaptive reuse**.
- Create and scale up programs and interventions that **address cultural displacement**.

**Equitable
Growth &
Anti-
Displacement**



Sample Policies



Community Partnerships

- Support **existing partnerships**.
- Encourage **new partnerships** that represent city's diversity.
- Establish **training and tools**.
- Maintain **interdepartmental dialogue**.
- **Maintain** historic resources.
- **Connect** historic facilities to their contexts.

Public Realm



Sample Policies



Efficient and transparent

Incentives

Clear, easy to use code

- Maintain a **certified historic preservation program**.
- Promote **collaboration** among LPC, City departments, boards and commissions.
- Create **communication materials in diverse and accessible** formats.
- **Streamline project review and enforcement** to promote preservation objectives.
- Adapt the Historic Preservation program to ensure that **social and cultural significance is prioritized within the nomination** process.
- **Reduce design review** requirements.
- **Clear and effective demolition review procedures**.



Project Schedule



2024

- ✓ End of July: Draft Existing Conditions for HP
- ✓ Mid-August: Finalize Existing Conditions
- ❑ End of November: Preliminary Draft Plan for staff review

2025

- ❑ End of January: Public Review Draft
- ❑ Early April: Planning Commission Review Draft
- ❑ End of June: City Council Review and Adoption of plan (code revisions to follow)

