

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE January 20, 2023

Honorable Members of the City Council Housing and Homelessness Solutions  
TO Committee: Casey Thomas II (Chair), Jesse Moreno (Vice Chair), Carolyn King Arnold,  
Paula Blackmon, Cara Mendelsohn, Paul Ridley, Jaynie Schultz

SUBJECT **Update on Historic Preservation Policy**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update and lay out next steps on the Historic Preservation Policy from the November 15, 2022 Housing and Homelessness Solutions Committee briefing.

## **Background of the Historic Preservation Policy Work**

An interdepartmental team has worked towards implementation of the Economic Development policy since its adoption in May of 2021. In August 2022, the City Council adopted the Racial Equity Plan which committed to achieving racial equity across all departments and functions. With the adoption of the Racial Equity Plan, the City focused on the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) and the alignment of economic development, historic preservation, and racial equity. The City began reviewing challenges and opportunities in Dallas' historic preservation realm as the beginning of a coordinated effort to:

- Address challenges in efficiency and customer service in the administration of Certificates of Appropriateness.
- Align OHP operations with the goals set forth in the Racial Equity Plan and the Economic Development Policy, ensuring that the City's historical preservation tools were inclusive and equitable.
- Ensure that the City has the tools to face today's historical and cultural preservation challenges.

## **Historic Preservation Plan and Engagement**

In FY 2022-2023 budget, funding was allocated to conduct a Historical Resources Survey across Dallas to acknowledge historical resources, determine what needs to be preserved, and help guide the development of local ordinances and planning efforts. In addition to the Historical Resources Survey, an updated Strategic Plan is recommended. The last comprehensive update of Dallas' Historic Preservation Plan was in 1977 and was recommended to be updated in the 2006 forwardDallas! Plan. The purpose of this plan update is to review the current context of the program and recommend program modifications for a more efficient and effective community-based historic program.

In late 2022, meetings were held with elected officials and a diverse group of leaders in the preservation community that provided feedback on the challenges in the current preservation system. Feedback included:

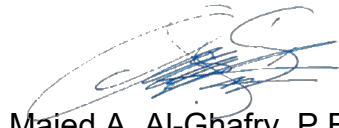
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- Importance of improving customer service for residents living in historic districts, and developing new tools and resources to meet historic and cultural preservation needs identified by communities
- Working with communities to ensure that City efforts to address large-scale issues like cultural displacement are coordinated and effectively serving historically marginalized communities under intense development or disinvestment pressures.
- Concerns about ensuring that all historic preservation functions and programs are structured effectively, and that the current functions of the historic preservation program (focused on architectural preservation) remain a priority.

### **Next Steps**

Based on the comments from the Housing and Homelessness Solutions Committee, staff is adjusting to take a more comprehensive approach to the process of establishing a program and policy. The engagement framework for the Historic Preservation Strategic Plan for the Office of Historic Preservation is currently being developed and will be released through a full City Council briefing for Summer 2023. An inclusive engagement strategy will be included in that briefing to solicit input from communities across Dallas and to work collaboratively with the Landmark Commission members.

Should you have any questions, please contact Julia Ryan, Director of the Department of Planning and Urban Design and Interim Director of the Office of Historic Preservation, at (214) 670-5404 or [julia.ryan@dallas.gov](mailto:julia.ryan@dallas.gov).



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