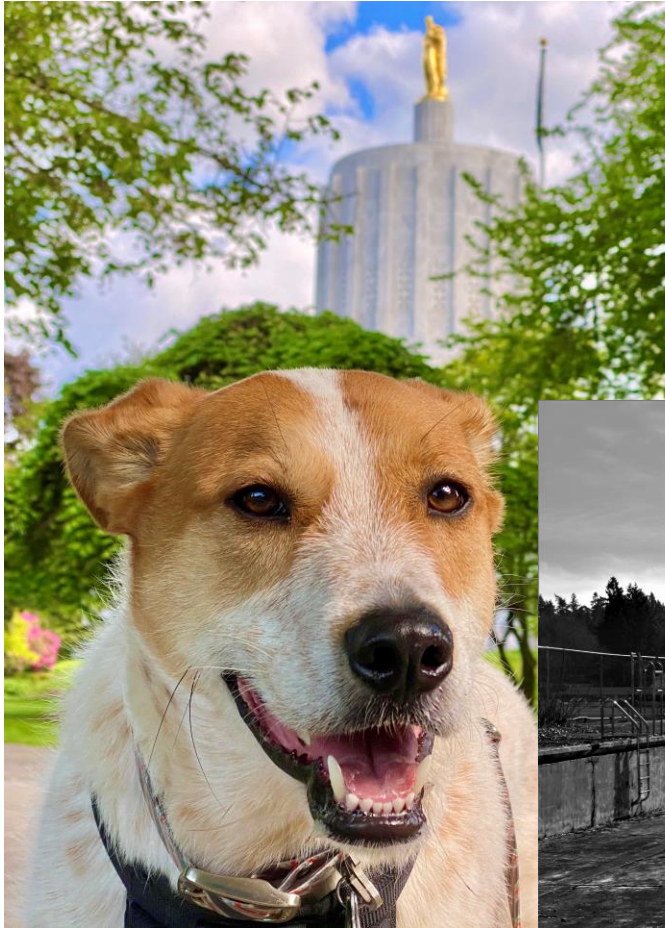


Salem Historic Landmarks Commission

2020 Accomplishments & 2021 Work Plan



January 2021





Message from the Chair

Dear Mayor Bennett and Council Members,

We are pleased to present you with our 2020 Accomplishments and 2020 Work Plan from the Salem Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC). Partnering with City Staff, we have achieved a variety of accomplishments in 2020. With their continued help, I believe we can complete our 2021 goals.

In 2020 we completed our work on our Historic Code Amendments and Historic Preservation Plan update, and now have a road map for projects through 2030. I am proud that the Historic Landmarks Commission is one of just two Salem commissions that hold quasi-judicial public hearings. Our work is primarily focused upon historic design review for alterations, demolition, and new construction within Salem's four National Register Historic Districts. Our work is only possible because a majority of our Mayoral appointed members are highly trained professionals who are uniquely suited to complete the often complex historic design reviews required to ensure that the integrity of our historic resources are retained.

The historic Residential Toolbox Grant Program continues to provide residential property owners with much needed financial support. This program is possible thanks to our generous donor and the commitment of Salem's City Council to assist property owners with the maintenance of their historic resources, which now includes grants to help offset the cost of having their historic homes seismically upgraded and retrofitted. Our new updated plan includes a goal to establish a new 'Preservation Green' fund to assist historic property owners with projects to improve the energy efficiency of their historic buildings.

Our new Plan also includes a specific goal and activities related to the protection of cultural landscapes and archaeological resources. In 2021 we look forward to establishing a new Cultural Landscape Award, acknowledging the maintenance/restoration of a historic or cultural landscape. In 2020, despite the pandemic we completed work on our first private/public archaeology project at the Jason Lee House site. We even held a virtual open house and created videos to share information about our findings.

The HLC had its sixth successful year hosting the *"This Place Matters"* Historic Photo Contest! I was especially excited that we were able to continue this during the pandemic. The winners were announced virtually during Historic Preservation Month in May.

You will find more accomplishments in this document but these are my highlights. The Commission greatly appreciates the Mayor and City Council for supporting our historic efforts to maintain Salem's historic resources as well as your continued faith in our Commission to successfully complete the good work of the City.







Sincerely,

Jamie French, Outgoing HLC Chair

Commission Purpose & Historic Preservation Plan

The Salem Historic Landmarks Commission provides expertise on identifying, designating, and preserving significant properties related to the community's prehistory and history by encouraging the rehabilitation and ongoing viability of historic buildings and structures; strengthening public support for historic preservation efforts within the community; fostering civic pride; encouraging cultural heritage tourism; and promoting the continued productive use of recognized resources, and implementing the policies contained in the Salem Area Comprehensive Plan for the preservation of historic resources.

In 2020 the Salem Historic Landmarks Commission adopted a Historic Preservation Plan update with the following Goals:

-  1. Improve Public Outreach and Community Education
-  2. Streamline Historic Code, Process, and Enforcement
-  3. Increase Financial Support
-  4. Protect Cultural Landscapes and Archaeological Resources
-  5. Encourage Sustainable Practices
-  6. Survey and Designate Historic Resources

All of the work identified in the Commission's Annual Work Plan relates directly to these goals which were approved by Salem City Council, when the Historic Preservation Plan update was adopted.

The HLC is comprised of nine members appointed by the Mayor. As a Certified Local Government (CLG), it is required that a majority of the members meet the United States Secretary of Interior's Historic Preservation Qualifications Standards, to the extent that candidates are available in the community. Professional fields for consideration may include archaeology, architectural history, conservation, cultural anthropology, curation, engineering, folklore, historic architecture, historic landscape architecture, historic preservation, historic preservation planning, and history.

Five members of the HLC currently meet these qualification standards. The professional positions are held by two archaeologists, a historic preservation professional, a historian, and an architect. The at-large positions are held by an attorney, a historian, a planner, and a historic property owner. The HLC currently has two vacancies as one of our professional members and one of our at-large members completed their final terms at the end of 2020.

Commission Members

Carroll Cottingham – Commissioner Cottingham was appointed to the HLC in December 2017 as an At-Large member. He holds an MA in Historic Preservation and Planning from the University of Maryland and prior to moving to Oregon, he worked for the NPS on federal and local preservation and protection in the Chesapeake Bay region. He lives with his family in Salem and works for ODOT as the Intermodal Civil Right Manager.

Jessica Curteman - Commissioner Curteman was appointed as a Professional member to the HLC in July 2019. She holds a M.A. in Archaeology from Oregon State University and has worked in archaeology for state and federal agencies, private contract firms, and Tribal government around the northwest. She lives with her family in south Salem and currently works at Oregon Department of Transportation as an Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison. She enjoys continuing to be an advocate for the people of Oregon's cultural heritage resources and educating others in how to become proactive and learn more about the history of their cities and state.

Jamie French (Chair) - Commissioner French serves as a Professional member, holds a M.A. in Historical Archaeology and works for the Oregon SHPO as an archaeologist. She's worked at locations such as Salem Pioneer Cemetery, Champoeg State Park, Fort Yamhill State Park, Camp Adair, and Fort Hoskins County Park. A life-long Salemite, Jamie enjoys educating people about archaeology in urban environments and watching current developments in Salem that join the history of the town with new opportunities for its residents.

Jennifer Maglinte-Timbrook – Commissioner Maglinte-Timbrook serves as an At-Large member and works at the State of Oregon Department of Revenue. She has a B.A. in History and pursued a M.S. in Historic Preservation and Urban Planning from Eastern Michigan University. Before joining Salem's HLC, she served as a Commissioner on the West Chicago HLC for six years. 2020 was Jennifer's final term on the HLC.

Patty Mulvihill – Commissioner Mulvihill has resided in Salem since 2016 and was appointed to the Historic Landmarks Commission in September of 2018 as an At-Large member. She is an Indiana native who has dedicated her professional career to serving local governments. Patty is the General Counsel for the League of Oregon Cities. She describes herself as a practical conservationist and is excited to serve the city of Salem and its Historic Landmarks Commission.

Tracy Schwartz – Commissioner Schwartz was appointed to the HLC in December 2018 and serves as a Professional member. She holds a M.S. in Historic Preservation and M.A. in Anthropology. Tracy has worked for the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, and is current a historian for the Portland District for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Kelly Thomas – Commissioner Thomas graduated from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV's School of Architecture) in 1997 where he became passionate about a sustainable built environment. Two years later, during Nevada's 70th Legislative Session, he proposed a package of legislation with that in mind. In 2009, he became an Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) practitioner and eventually worked as the Executive Director for the U.S. Green Building Council-Nevada Chapter (USGB-NV). In the summer of 2018, he moved to Salem with his fiancée and German Shepherd where he felt the need to channel his interest in sustainability into historic preservation. He has served on the HLC as an At-Large member since 2019.

Andy Zimmerman — Commissioner Zimmerman was appointed to the HLC in December 2018 as a Professional member. A lifelong Salem resident, he wrote a column about Salem-area history for the Statesman Journal for more than five years. He also serves as the vice chair for the Oregon Century Farm and Ranch program. Andy works for the Oregon Department of Agriculture as a Publications and Web Specialist. When not with his wife and children, the Western Oregon University graduate can be found gardening, sometimes with success.

Russell Schutte (Vice-Chair) – Serving as a Professional member Russell works for CB Two Architects. He's worked on numerous historic projects in Salem and understands the importance these resources have to the community. Russell holds 4 degrees, including a Masters of Architecture and volunteers teaching students about Architecture through the AVID and Architects in Schools programs. 2020 was Russell's final term on the HLC.

2020 Hardships

In addition to the global pandemic that has caused widespread difficulties, Salem’s historic preservation has seen its own unique challenges.

Unfortunately in May there was damage to the statues from protestors. We helped support development of a plan to protect the statues from further damage which involved covering them with tarps.



Above and Left: Volunteers cleaning statues

Below: Damage to Capitol doors. (photo courtesy of Willamette Week)



In September, fires raged across the state, threatening historic buildings and landscapes.

In December, protestors unhappy with public health precautions against COVID-19 smashed the doors of the Capitol.

Despite these challenges, the Historic Landmarks Commission has adapted to continue its work with historic preservation.

All of our meetings and celebrations have shifted to digital gatherings. We have continued to put out our newsletter, award grants, and have contests.

Through these trying times we have gained new tools and skills to help further our goals now and in the future.



Left: Smokey skies in the downtown historic district from the fires

2020 Accomplishments

Between January 2020 and December 2020, the Salem Historic Landmarks Commission held ten public meetings and twelve public hearings. Out of a total of thirty-six Historic Design Reviews processed, twenty-five were Minor Administrative Alteration Reviews completed by staff while the other eleven went before the HLC as Major Historic Design Reviews.

2020 Projects

Salem Landmark - HLC Newsletter

Publication of quarterly newsletters with articles written by the HLC Commissioners has continued and the HLC has successfully created, printed, and distributed four newsletters to over 600 Salem residents in both hard copy and electronically from January to December 2020. These newsletters include technical articles about how property owners can maintain their historic properties as well as information about the history of Salem. The newsletter mailings were funded by a grant obtained through the Certified Local Government (CLG) program through the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Right and Below:
Excerpts from the Fall
2020 edition of the HLC
Newsletter.



Oregon Supreme Court Building by Michael Spady
Historic Photo Contest Chairperson's Choice winner

SALEM LANDMARK 8

Gardening Tips for Fall

By Mark Akimoff

The cool, crisp days of fall are always a nice time to get outside and do some garden cleanup before winter sets in. A few tips and tricks will ensure you get the most out of your fall cleanup efforts and that next spring the garden is in tip top shape!

- Limit fall pruning on woody trees and shrubs to removal of suckers. Don't prune to shape now as this may encourage new growth that can be damaged in winter.
- Fertilize lawns now to give them a root boost that will result in productive turf growth in spring. Follow label directions. Don't over apply as excess will end up in our waterways.
- Wait until fall rains have saturated the soil before mulching garden beds, otherwise the rain won't penetrate the mulch.
- Wait until a frost has stopped the growth of perennials before cutting them back. The roots will store more energy if they can die back naturally. Many ornamental grasses look great through winter and can wait until spring to cut back.



Photo courtesy of Lord & Schryver Conservancy



Photo courtesy of Lord & Schryver Conservancy

- As soon as leaves on tender bulbs start to wither, dig them up and store in a frost-free location. For a longer display of flowers like Gladiolus, dig up half and store in a cool, dry location. Leave the other half in the ground, as the ones that survive winter will get a head start in spring. When the soil warms up, plant the half that you stored over winter and your bloom period will last longer.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Archaeologic Spotlight: Jason Lee Mission House

Historic Photo Contest Winners Announced

Fall Gardening Tips

Celebrating Oregon Archaeology Month

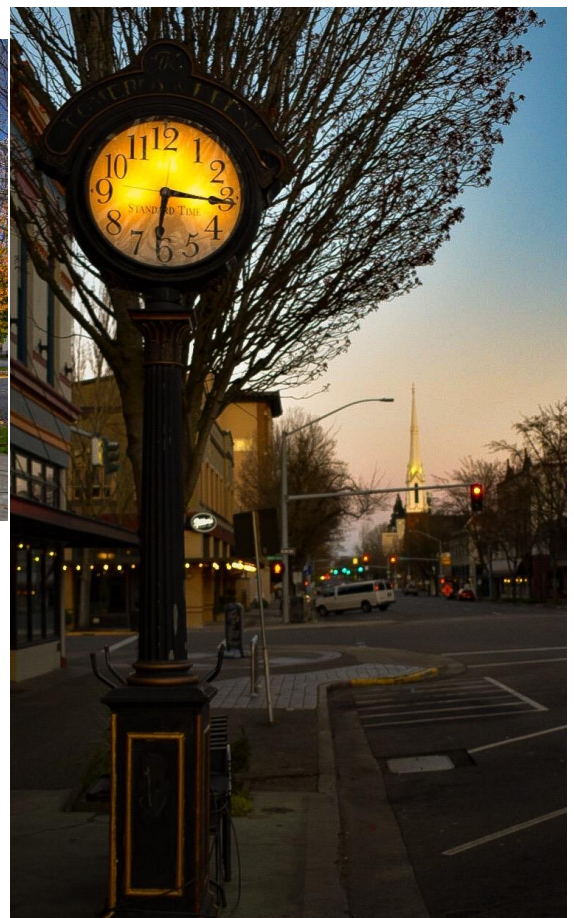
Historic Preservation Month – May 2020

We celebrated Historic Preservation Month in 2020 a bit differently. The Historic Preservation Fair normally held at the Capitol was canceled. We did continue with education and outreach about our Historic Preservation Program and gave a talk about our Jason Lee Project to the SCAN neighborhood Association. In October 2020 we collaborated with the SHPO and ODOT to develop and distribute a postcard to help celebrate Archaeology Month.



Historic Photo Contest

The HLC had a sixth successful year hosting the Historic Photo Contest! We had a strong number of entries despite the pandemic: thirty-six in the adult category and ten in the youth category. Awards were offered for each age group in the following categories: Historic Exterior, Historic Interior, Historic Landscape/Streetscape/Feature, and Selfie or Pet Portrait with a Historic Feature or Building. Winners were announced at the June HLC meeting and the winner of each category in the adult section are featured on the front of this work plan.



Above: Winner of the Chair’s Choice Award
Left: Winner in the Youth Historic Landscapes/Streetscapes/Features Category

HLC Annual Awards

In 2010, the HLC established the Benjamin Maxwell Award to recognize outstanding contributions to the preservation of Salem’s historic resources. In 2013, the Virginia Green Award was established to recognize exemplary service on behalf of Historic Preservation within the Salem Community.

**120 Commercial Street –
The Masonry Grill
Remodel
Before and After**



Benjamin I. Maxwell Award

This year, the Maxwell Award went to Scott Chernoff and Don Bauhofer for their work to renovate the historic Reed Opera House and Durbin’s Livery in downtown Salem.

**120 Commercial Street –
The Masonry Grill
Remodel
Before and After**



Before and After photos Durbin’s Livery (The Masonry Grill)

Virginia P. Green Award

This year, the Virginia P. Green Awards was given to Charles Weathers for his work on 440 State Street (Fork Forty Food Hall) and support of the Jason Lee Archaeology Project (990 Broadway St NE).

UPSTAIRS BEFORE AND AFTER



INTERIOR BEFORE AND AFTER



Before and After photos of the interior of 440 State Street

Residential Toolbox Grant Program

Another goal of the adopted Salem Historic Preservation Plan is to develop both economic and recognition incentives for historic property owners. In June 2011, City Council adopted Resolution 2011-52, approving guidelines for the historic Residential Toolbox Grant program and directing staff to implement the program consistent with these guidelines. In 2020, \$11,000.00 of grant funding was awarded to private residential property owners. Since it began, this program has provided over \$ 89,415.50 since 2011 to private homeowners to help them maintain and preserve their historic homes.



Recipients of 2020 Toolbox Grant awards and their completed projects.

Jason Lee Mission House Archeology Project

Between April and May an ambitious archeological project was started. The original site of the Jason Lee Mission House was being developed for new use and presented an exciting opportunity to dig into Salem’s past. The city partnered with Willamette University and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde to use Ground Penetrating Radar to detect evidence of the early house and other anomalies. With limited volunteers due to COVID19, we were able to recover over 2500 artifacts which are still being curated. The work on this project received a Volunteer Recognition Award.



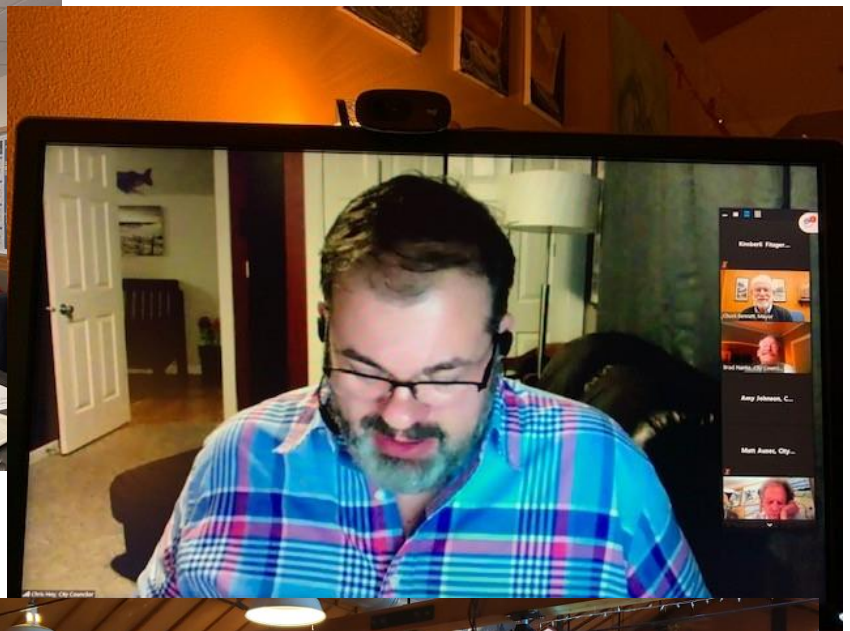
Above and Left: Volunteers at the archeology site



Right: Community partners posing with Kimberli Fitzgerald (Historic Preservation Officer) for the Volunteer Recognition Award.

Historic Preservation Plan Update

Funded by a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant, staff completed the process of updating Salem’s Historic Preservation Plan. Originally adopted in 2010, the plan guided the HLC’s goals for ten years. The plan update began in 2019 but in 2020 staff continued work to see it finalized and adopted in the fall. In the early months of the year, our final public outreach events were held in person, including meetings of the advisory committee and the last Open House event. After our public outreach was complete, the updated plan was drafted with six goals and fifty-seven actions to be completed through 2030. It was adopted by the City Council in October and the associated historic code amendments became effective in November 2020.



Above: January Advisory Committee Meeting
Upper Right: Councilor Hoy reading the Adoption of the Historic Preservation Plan and code amendments at the virtual October City Council Meeting
Lower Right: Open house event in February 2020.



Salem Historic Landmarks Commission – 2021 Work Plan

Goal 1: Improve Public Outreach & Community Education

STRATEGY ONE: *Improve community engagement and acknowledgement of excellence in historic preservation*

ACTION: Continue to celebrate Historic Preservation Month in May with awards and educational programming (#22)

ACTION: Continue photo contest with awards (#23)

ACTION: Celebrate Archaeology Month annually in October (#56)

STRATEGY TWO: *Develop interpretation and coordinate educational programming about Salem's diverse local history*

ACTION: Organize history talks and walking tours featuring Salem's history and historic resources in partnership with Travel Salem and local non-profits. Including school groups (#1)

ACTION: Develop interpretive signage (i.e. vinyl utility box wraps and sign toppers) for listed historic districts, Heritage Neighborhoods, and other historic resources (#26)

STRATEGY THREE: *Improve historic program's web and social media presence*

ACTION: Use social media to regularly share the HLC newsletter, information about the Historic Preservation program and Salem's Local History (#4)

ACTION: Improve education about how to access the city website landing page where information and resources for historic property owners are located (#25)

ACTION: Share information about Salem's underrepresented history and communities through social media (#57)

STRATEGY FOUR: *Provide technical training*

ACTION: Coordinate homeowner FORUM meetings, so owners can share experiences, information (#5)

STRATEGY FIVE: *Provide Training about the Design Review Process and Code*

ACTION: Develop a "Welcome" packet to provide to new historic property owners and real estate agents with brochures and information about owning a historic property (#24)

Goal 2: Streamline Historic Code: Criteria, Process & Enforcement

STRATEGY ONE: *Improve Enforcement Policy*

ACTION: Coordinate regularly with Neighborhood Associations (ie. CANDU, NEN and SCAN) to review and update existing historic enforcement policy and implementation (#27)

STRATEGY TWO: *Improve and clarify education about design review process and criteria*

ACTION: Monthly HLC Meeting Public Hearings and Roundtable (#6)

Goal 3: Increase Financial Support

STRATEGY TWO: Improve financial support for historic property owners

ACTION: Continue to fund and offer the annual Historic Residential Toolbox grant (#28)

Goal 4: Protect Cultural Landscapes & Archaeological Resources

STRATEGY ONE: Encourage the preservation of archaeological resources

ACTION: Support development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, similar to the MOU with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (#31)

ACTION: Hold monthly Historic and Cultural Resource Compliance Coordination Meetings (#14)

ACTION: Celebrate Archaeology Month annually in October (#56)

STRATEGY TWO: Encourage preservation of cultural landscapes

ACTION: Celebrate Historic Landscape Architecture Month annually in April (#29)

ACTION: Develop and offer a “Cultural Landscape Award” acknowledging maintenance/restoration of a historic or cultural landscape (#30)

Goal 5: Encourage Sustainable Practices

STRATEGY TWO: Establish Financial Incentives and Educational Opportunities to encourage sustainable practices in the rehabilitation and redevelopment of historic structures.

ACTION: Establish and offer a Historic Preservation Green Fund Grant to provide grants for window restoration, energy efficiency improvements and solar panel installation (#32)

Goal 6: Survey and Designate Historic Resources

STRATEGY ONE: Work with Neighborhoods to identify, survey and designate archaeological sites, historic structures, sites and landscapes that are significant and meaningful.

ACTION: Spotlight key surveyed resources or buildings featured within the Salem Heritage Neighborhood Architectural Guide through the HLC newsletter and social media outlets (#21)