

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chair and Members, Development Review Commission  
**FROM:** Zachary J. Lechner, Senior Planner/Historic Preservation Officer  
**DATE:** April 12, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Tempe Historic Preservation Plan - Planning Process and Draft Plan



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## PURPOSE:

This memo provides an update on the planning process for, and a summary of, the revised version of the City's updated Historic Preservation Plan.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

After identifying current challenges, opportunities, and best practices in historic preservation, the City of Tempe is in the process of updating its Historic Preservation Plan, which was adopted in 1997. Aside from minor revisions adopted on June 15, 2000, the two-page 1997 plan remains the City's guiding document to advance the City's historic preservation (HP) goals.

The goals and priorities provided in this plan will contribute to community planning while protecting and celebrating Tempe's heritage. The City of Tempe commissioned Archaeological Consulting Services (ACS) to draft an updated plan. The City also contracted with ACS to complete two separate inventories of historical resources built within Tempe between 1868 and 1960, and between 1961 and 1975, respectively. Both inventories have been finished. To complement these efforts, Logan Simpson, an environmental planning, community planning, and landscape architecture firm, was hired to complete a blanket monitoring, discovery, and treatment archaeological plan for the City. The work on the archaeological plan is ongoing, having been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Outreach for the Historic Preservation Plan update process has included obtaining input from area residents, City staff, and other stakeholders to create an updated plan that will be taken through the City's adoption process. The new plan provides a background on historic preservation in Tempe, summarizes the city's history, and provides goals and principles to guide the future planning for historic preservation in Tempe.

The updated Historic Preservation Plan will remain a policy-level document and does not change the legal rights of property owners, codes, and ordinances applicable to any property. It is a non-regulatory document, but it is consistent with the goals of Tempe's [Historic Preservation Ordinance](#), which is part of City code.

## Public and Other Stakeholder Outreach Process

Community development staff conducted several outreach efforts in 2021 and 2022 to consult with residents, City of Tempe staff, and other stakeholders to seek input and comments. These efforts have included the following activities:

- Public meetings and presentations held on April 26, 2021, and October 20, 2021
- Public survey about historic preservation in Tempe made available to the public on Tempe Forum from April 26-May 10, 2021 (52 responses received)
- Consultation with representatives of the Four Southern Tribes and Pascua Yaqui in 2021:
  - Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) and Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) on August 12, 2021, and September 9, 2021
  - Pascua Yaqui on August 19, 2021, and September 16, 2021
  - SRPMIC, GRIC, and Pascua Yaqui on October 5, 2021
- Consultation with Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) throughout 2021, and preliminary approval by HPC in November 2021
- Solicitation of comments from the Tempe Historic Preservation Foundation (THPF) in 2021-22, and presentation at THPF meeting in August 2021
- Consultation with Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in March 2022

- Feedback on draft HP plan solicited and incorporated from City staff from the following departments in March 2022:
  - Community Development
  - Economic Development
  - Engineering and Transportation
  - Equity and Inclusion
  - City Manager's office
- HP draft plan made public via the Tempe Historic Preservation Office (HPO) website in early April; comments are being accepted until April 30
- Presentation of revised plan to tribes at April 2022 meeting of Four Southern Tribes Cultural Resource Working Group
- [Public survey results](#) demonstrated a high level of concern about the need to preserve Tempe's historic properties in the face of development pressures, along with a desire to increase the incentives for individuals and companies to maintain historic properties.
- Comments received from the Four Southern Tribes helped to shape revisions to the historic preservation plan's sections on Indigenous history. The Tribes also recommended creating meaningful consultation protocols for HP-related projects even when the process for Section 106 does not apply. (Section 106 is a portion of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 [NHPA] that requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, and give the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation [ACHP] a reasonable opportunity to comment.)

### Remaining Timeline

Below is the upcoming calendar for the historic preservation plan adoption process:

- April 12-May 4, 2022: Continue to update the draft HP Plan as necessary
- May 11, 2022: Present the draft HP plan and inventories to the HPC for action
- May 26, 2022: Present the final HP plan and inventories at the City Council meeting for adoption by resolution
- (June 9, 2022: Backup date for presentation to City Council)
- TBD: Plan becomes effective once adopted

### Draft Historic Presentation Plan Contents

The draft of the new historic preservation plan consists of the following main sections:

- Introduction
- Vision and Purpose
- Legal Basis for Preservation
- Prehistoric and Protohistoric Cultural History
- A Brief Municipal Summary of Tempe
- Architecture in Tempe
- Cultural Heritage Groups in Tempe
- Tribal Perspectives
- Tempe's Historic Preservation Program
- Planning Considerations
- Historic Preservation Goals and Priorities

### Further Information

Information on the Historic Preservation Plan update, as well as a link to the plan itself, can be found at the website: <https://www.tempe.gov/government/community-development/historic-preservation>. Additional information including the City's previous Historic Preservation Plan, Tempe's historic preservation ordinance, and information on public meetings and comments regarding the updated preservation plan are also available on the website. Questions can be directed by email to Historic Preservation Officer Zachary J. Lechner ([Zachary\\_Lechner@tempe.gov](mailto:Zachary_Lechner@tempe.gov))

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