

# CITY OF PEORIA, AZ

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION WORK PLAN

Arts, Culture, & Library Services

Marylou Stephens, Director

August 20, 2024



### MEMBERS

POSITION	NAME
Chair	Tobechukwu Okeke
Vice Chair	John De La-O
Members	Mike Fusco, Mike Heath, Edward Molina, Eva Osuna, vacant

### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- (1) Review and make recommendations on matters concerning significant historic, architectural, and cultural structures, sites, or resources as landmarks within the City.
- (2) Review and make recommendations for the formation or modification of a heritage area or historic district within the City.
- (3) Review and make recommendations regarding updates to the Peoria Historic Preservation Master Plan.
- (4) Review existing surveys of significant historic, architectural, and cultural landmarks and historic districts within the City and periodically update the survey.
- (5) Recommend acceptance of the donation or other method of acquisition of facade easements, development rights or other interests in real property as necessary to carry out the celebration and protection of Peoria's historic, architectural, archaeological or cultural heritage.
- (6) Promote and increase public awareness of the value of historic, cultural and architectural preservation within the City.
- (7) Make recommendations concerning the utilization of state, federal or private funds to promote the preservation of landmarks, heritage areas, and historic districts within the City.
- (8) Approve or disapprove of applications for Certificate or Appropriateness and Finding of Hardship pursuant to Sections [21-629](#) and [21-632](#) of the Peoria City Code.

# ARIZONA STATE CONSTITUTION AND STATUTE REFERENCES AND CITY OF PEORIA CITY CHARTER AND CITY CODE REFERENCES APPLICABLE TO THIS BOARD/COMMISSION

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Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) – Certified Local Government (CLG)  
Peoria City Code Sec. 3-23 – Historic Preservation Commission: establishment and membership.  
Peoria City Code Sec. 3-24. – Historic Preservation Commission; powers and duties.

## SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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- Completed a five-part historic podcast series featuring several commission members and Peoria residents.
- Completed the survey of the historical Native American sites around the Palo Verde Ruins in conjunction with ASU Project Cities.
- Designed and installed a Plaque for the Old Main building on Peoria High School campus.

## COUNCIL GOALS

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GOAL	NOTES
Innovative Government & Economic development	The focus will be enhancing the historic preservation narrative throughout the city and engaging the community in Peoria's rich history.

## OUTSTANDING COMMITTEE INITIATIVES

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ASSIGNMENT	DATE BEGAN	NEXT STEP
Historic Walking Tour	2-21-24	Evaluate 4/13 pilot program to determine next steps.
Time Capsule Working Group	2-21-24	Working Group to strategize call to public for ideas to include in capsule.

## UPCOMING GOALS

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Complete the Time Capsule project and find a permanent location for the capsule to live.  
Develop and execute a "Historical Walking Tours" in Old Town Peoria  
Continue to develop historical programming within the ACLS department.  
Develop and execute activities for National Historic Preservation Month in Peoria  
Discussion/Decisions on the Decades Walk content  
Explore grant opportunities that can support historic preservation projects  
Advise on the development of Historic Downtown and get regular updates on the progress

## **RECRUITMENT INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS**

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**Overview:** All members of the Historic Preservation Commission shall have an express interest in historic preservation. Connecting to community in meaningful engagement through special events and other means of communication to educate Peoria residents and visitors about Peoria's history.

**Time Commitment:**

The Historic Preservation Commission schedules meetings on the second Thursday of the month, unless adjusted due to conflicts for staff or commissioners. To meet the requirement of a Certified Local Government (CLG) with the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office, the commission is required to meet four times per calendar year.

**Responsibilities and Duties:**

Conduct open public meetings. Provide insight and interest on historic preservation and culture topics. Attend events and act as an ambassador and liaison with the community.

**Qualifications:**

Members are required to be at least 18 years of age. A significant effort shall be made to recruit Peoria residents for this board. All board members shall serve a term of two years.

**Recent Events Addressed by the Board:**

The Commission recently moved from the Planning Department to the new Arts, Culture, & Library Services Department with the city.