Salem Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC)
2018 Accomplishments & 2019 Work Plan

JANUARY 2019
Message from the Chair

Dear Mayor Bennett and Council Members,

We are pleased to present you with our 2018 Accomplishments and 2019 Work Plan from the Salem Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC). Partnering with City Staff, we have achieved a variety of accomplishments in 2018. With their continued help, I believe we can complete our 2019 goals.

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 Tool Box 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.

Archaeology is playing a stronger role in our program. In 2018 we hosted two public archaeology open houses. We celebrated the Qing Ming Festival at Salem’s Pioneer Cemetery at the Chinese Shrine, with over 100 people in attendance! We also co-sponsored a pop up archaeology exhibit at the Willamette Heritage Center featuring the artifacts recovered at Salem’s Police Facility site.

The HLC had its fourth successful year hosting the “This Place Matters” Historic Photo Contest! I was especially excited that we added a new Youth category this year to our Best Historic Building, Best Historic Place, and Best Historic Neighborhood categories. The winners were announced 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,

Kevin Sund, 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. (Ord No. 34-10)

In 2010 the Salem Historic Landmarks Commission adopted a Historic Preservation Plan with the following Goals:

1. Improve the application and review process and revise the historic preservation code and design guidelines
2. Develop a Public Outreach and Education Program
3. Develop Economic and Recognition Incentives
4. Survey and Designate Salem’s Historic Resources
5. Promote Heritage Tourism and Local History

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 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 an archaeologist, two historians, an architect, and a construction project manager. The at-large positions are held by an attorney, historian, and a historic property owner. The HLC currently has one vacancy.
Commission Members

Carroll Cottingham – Commissioner Cottingham was appointed to the HLC in December 2017. 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 Distracted Driving Project Coordinator.

Jamie French - 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 lifelong 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.

Andrew Hendrie (served 2013-2018) – Commissioner Hendrie served as an At-Large member since June 2013 and termed out after five years of service in December 2018. He was elected Chair in August 2014 and served as Chair through December 2016. Andrew is an Oregon State University alumni and works as floor staff for the state legislature in the chief clerk’s office. He is also an avid home remodeler in his spare time. He is a third generation Salemite.

Patty Mulvihill – Commissioner Mulvihill has resided in Salem since 2016 and was appointed to the Historic Landmarks Commission in September of 2018. 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. As one of the commission’s newest members, Tracy brings a wide range of experience the HLC. She holds a M.S. in Historic Preservation, an M.A. in Anthropology, and is currently working towards a Master’s in Business Administration. Tracy works for the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office as a Cultural Resource Specialist.

Russell Schutte – 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.

Andy Zimmerman — Commissioner Zimmerman was appointed to the HLC in December 2018. 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.

Kevin Sund – Commissioner Sund serves as a Professional member and works for Hoffman Construction Company as a Project Manager. He has a long heritage in the Salem Community and enjoys helping the area develop while preserving its history. Professionally, Kevin had the opportunity to be involved in the OSH Hospital Renovation and the ODOT Renovation on the Capitol Mall. Kevin was voted in as the new HLC Chair in January 2017.

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. Jennifer took over the role as Vice-Chair of the Commission in January 2017.
2018 Accomplishments

Between January 2018 and December 2018, the Salem Historic Landmarks Commission held nine public meetings and fourteen public hearings. Out of a total of thirty-nine Historic Design Reviews processed, twenty-eight were Minor Administrative Alteration Reviews completed by staff while the other fourteen went before the HLC as Major Historic Design Reviews.

2018 Projects

Salem Heritage Neighborhood Program

In 2010, the City Council approved the Salem Historic Preservation Plan which has stated goals regarding the City’s preservation program. One of the goals is to develop a public outreach and education program for historic preservation.

In 2013, the City Council authorized the Planning Division of the Community Development Department to apply for and receive a CLG grant from the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, which included funding for the development of a historic preservation educational and outreach program specifically for the Grant Neighborhood.

The South East Salem Neighborhood Association (SENSA) was designated as Salem’s second Heritage Neighborhood by the HLC on November 19, 2015. SESNA participated in this program through 2018. During 2018, the HLC liaison and staff worked with a sub-committee of representatives from the SESNA neighborhood to complete an RLS (Reconnaissance Level Survey) of the SESNA Neighborhood, an architectural guide, and wrap several electrical boxes with vinyl containing historic information about the neighborhood in both English and Spanish.

Left: Final installed panel at 23rd and State about Mill Creek. Above: Final proof of wrap installed at Aldrich Park.
In addition, staff visited the SESNA neighborhood at their annual Neighborhood Association meeting to share the progress made on these projects. Staff created a game featuring SESNA’s most historic and/or iconic buildings for residents to participate in.


**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 2018. 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).

Left: Excerpts from the Winter 2018 edition of the HLC Newsletter.
Historic Preservation Month – May 2018
This year, the HLC participated in several events during Historic Preservation Month including hosting a table at the 8th Annual Historic Preservation Fair, held at the Capitol Mall on the north side of Court Street NE. The free event showcased 27 heritage organizations that are helping to preserve historic events, persons, and places that tell Oregon’s story. The HLC booth was a popular stop this year for kids as they took turns spinning the trivia wheel and testing their historic knowledge!

Historic Photo Contest (See cover for winners)
The HLC had a third successful year hosting the “This Place Matters” Historic Photo Contest! A total of 21 photos were submitted for four categories: Historic Building, Historic Place, Historic Neighborhood, and our new category, Youth Entries. Winners were announced at the June HLC meeting and all photos were displayed at the Oregon State Capitol during Historic Preservation Month (see photo of display in above section). Winners of the historic photo contest appear on the cover of this report.
**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. These awards were presented by Councilor Cara Kaser at the June 2018 HLC meeting. Dr. Richard Neahring received the Benjamin Maxwell Award for his efforts in restoring and nominating the Ed and Marie Viesko House. Deb Meaghers was the winner of the Virginia Green Award for her outstanding service and commitment to historic preservation through her work on the KMUZ radio show “Salem History Matters” and as an author of several Salem history books.

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**Doctor Richard Neahrng for Ed & Marie Viesko House Nomination & Rehabilitation**

Recipient of the 2018 Benjamin I. Maxwell Award

For Outstanding Contributing to the Preservation, Restoration & Maintenance of Salem’s Historic Resources

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**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 2018, $9,355 of grant funding was awarded to private residential property owners. This program has provided over $70,724 since 2011 to private homeowners to help them maintain and preserve their historic homes.
Seismic Retrofit Grants

Under the umbrella of the Residential Toolbox Grant Program, a new opportunity arose for historic property owners this year. Following the success of the HLC’s Seismic Work Shop in 2016, homeowners were offered grants to help offset the cost of having their historic homes seismically upgraded and retrofitted. Several individuals took advantage of the grants and had their homes secured to their foundations.

Toolbox Grant recipient Scott Grew poses with the “Preserving Salem” sign after successfully completing seismic retrofit work on his property in the Court-Chemeketa Historic District.

Downtown Historic District Update

During the summer, staff worked to update the Salem Downtown Historic District National Register Nomination. This update served to confirm addresses, incorporate more historic narrative information, and provide updated photos to the Oregon SHPO office. Staff will work with the SHPO office to incorporate these updates as an addendum to the National Register Nomination. For example, this historic photo of the old Fred Meyer (Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Building) located at 170 Liberty St NE was revealed during this research.

Fred Meyer Building next to the JC Penney Building right after a snow storm in 1937.

(Ben Maxwell Collection, Salem Public Library, ID687)
Archaeology

Chinese Shrine at the Salem Pioneer Cemetery

Over the course of 2017 and 2018, staff worked to complete several archaeology projects related to the Salem Pioneer Cemetery and the Chinese Shrine within the cemetery. In November 2017, Kimberli Fitzgerald, the City of Salem Archaeologist, led an excavation of the area immediately surrounding what researchers thought was the remnant of a Chinese funerary shrine within the cemetery. Her work revealed that while partially destroyed, the shrine was still identifiable.

In the last year, staff worked with several partner groups to host a Qing Ming Festival at the cemetery on April 4, 2018. Nearly 100 people showed up to honor the contributions that Chinese Salem residents have and continue to make to Salem’s history. Both Mayor Bennett and City Councilor Tom Andersen took part in the Qing Ming festival.

Photos captured by David Barker of the City of Salem during the Qing Ming Festival on April 5, 2018.
During the summer of 2018, the City partnered with the Willamette Heritage Center during their Special Exhibit called “Arrival – Stories of Migration, Immigration, and Journeys in the Mid-Willamette Valley.” Sharing resources uncovered during research about Salem’s Chinatown, the shrine, and Chinese funerary traditions allowed visitors to the museum to learn more about this vital piece of Salem’s history.

Archaeological work continued at the shrine in December of 2019 which revealed many more artifacts, including a metal grate which may indicate the presence of a “burner.” A burner is commonly associated with Chinese funerary shrines as a place to burn small items that the deceased could use in the afterlife. On December 1, 2018, staff held an archaeology “Open House” so people could come view the work being done at the shrine.

Top: Photo of exhibit about shrine at the Willamette Heritage Center. Right: Photo of the rainy Public Archaeology Day. Below: Photos from the archaeological dig.
Salem Police Facility Site

In May 2017, the residents of Salem passed at $61.8 million bond measure to finance the construction of Salem’s new Police Facility. The City of Salem, in compliance with local, State and Federal law, is required to ensure no known archaeological sites are adversely affected by any publicly funded projects. The new Police Facility site, located between Commercial St NE, Liberty St NE, and Division St NE, had a high probability of containing archaeological resources. Research and subsequent archaeological testing verified that the land comprising the block located at 333 Division Street NE was in fact an archaeological site and was first utilized by Native Americans. Since it is close to both the Willamette River and Mill Creek, it was a suitable location for members of the Kalapuya Tribes to gather and trade.

In the fall of 1840, the Oregon Methodist Missionary, Jason Lee, established a Mission just north of this block. Over the next decade a lumber mill, flour mill and woolen mill were constructed. Since it was an ideal location close to this industry, one of Salem’s first residential neighborhoods was established on this block, with ten houses by 1895 and twenty-one houses, most with garages, by 1926. This residential neighborhood was demolished in 1967 and redeveloped with a new Volkswagen Dealership and repair shop. The entire site was soon paved over, and additional automobile sales and repair buildings were constructed on the site, which remained until their demolition in 2017.

Given that it was not feasible to avoid impacting the archaeological resources on this site during the redevelopment and construction of the Salem Police Facility, the City of Salem, in consultation with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office decided to recover as many artifacts as we could prior to the redevelopment. Archaeologists from AINW and over 30 volunteers from the Oregon Archeological Society and students from Willamette and Western Universities donated over 700 hours of time. During this archaeological data recovery in the late summer and fall of 2018, archaeologists recovered over 17,000 artifacts from the site. Artifacts included pre-contact Native American tools, 19th century ceramics, bottles, buttons and shoes. One of the most exciting finds was the knapped 19th century glass and ceramic, providing us a glimpse into the time when the Missionaries and the Native Americans were living together in this area.

The Willamette Heritage Center and the City of Salem, and in particular the Salem Police Department, partnered to showcase a selection of these artifacts in WHC’s rotating exhibit space during “Magic at the
Mill,” one of the Heritage Center’s most well attended events. Almost 4,000 people attended Magic at the Mill in December of 2018. Continuing on this success, the same artifacts were displayed at the Salem Public Library, in the Peace Plaza Windows on the first floor from January 15 to January 27.

Citizens had another opportunity to learn about Archaeology when staff hosted a table at the Salem Police Department’s Halloween Dress Rehearsal. Using an educational collection of artifacts, staff allowed children to touch a cow bone and match bone to animal with photos.

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**Salem Culture and Heritage Forum**

The City of Salem and the Historic Landmarks Commission continues to support the Salem Culture and Heritage Forum. The forum is a coalition between organizations with cultural or heritage related missions and offers a place to share information, resources, and plan for big events.

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**Awards**

**Dorothy Patch Community and Education Achievement Award**

The archaeology volunteers at the Salem Police Facility Site were honored with the Dorothy Patch Community and Education Achievement Award at the 2018 City of Salem Volunteer Award Ceremony held in October of 2018.
**Demuro Award**
The City of Salem, and the many other partners involved with the project, were honored for their work on the Salem Railroad Baggage Depot (1889). Awarded by Restore Oregon, the Demuro Award recognizes excellence in preservation, reuse, and revitalization.

Above: The Salem Baggage Depot after restoration, now a Greyhound Bus Station. Right: City Councilors attend the Restoration Dedication Ceremony.

**Andrew Hendrie Terms Out after Five Years of Service**
Andrew Hendrie, on the Historic Landmarks Commission since 2013, termed out after five years of service on the Commission. He recently started attending Willamette University’s Law School. We wish Andrew luck with all his future endeavors!

With a couple vacancies and Andrew terming out, the Historic Landmarks Commission was left with several openings at the end of 2018. At the December 2018 HLC meeting, three new commissioners were sworn in: Tracy Schwartz, Patricia Mulvihill, and Andrew Zimmerman.
GOAL 1: Improvements to Existing Codes and Processes

The Historic Landmarks Commission and staff continue to work to ensure that the Historic Preservation Code reflects the policies within the Comprehensive Plan as well as City Council’s goals. Minor Updates and improvements to SRC Chapter 230 as part of the UDC update will be completed in the spring of 2019.

The Historic Landmarks Commission will coordinate with the Planning Commission (PC) to receive training on land use and ethics from the City Attorney in 2019.

The HLC will also pursue CLG grant funding to hire a consultant to assist with an update to our Historic Preservation Plan, which expires in 2020.

GOAL 2: Public Outreach and Education

The HLC plans to work with a new Heritage Neighborhood in the fall/winter of 2019.

The HLC will continue its development of their social media and multi-media educational outreach program in order to share the wealth of information about Salem’s historic resources.

As well, the HLC plans to offer both a window workshop and a seismic upgrade workshop for residential historic property owners in Salem.

In addition to celebrating Historic Preservation Month each May, the HLC will add a number of new historic and heritage commemorations to their calendar in order to educate and further honor the diverse heritage within our community.
2019 Historic & Heritage Commmemorations

- African American Historic Month – February
- Historic Preservation Month – May
- Asian Pacific Heritage Month – May
- Archaeology Month – October
- Hispanic Heritage Month – September
- Native American Heritage Month – November

In order to improve public outreach and education to the Native American Community in 2019, the HLC will work with the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) to identify the tribes with deep historic and cultural ties to the City of Salem. As a result, the HLC will provide recommendations to the Salem City Council to improve and strengthen communication and cooperation between the tribes and the city on matters of mutual interest.

GOAL 3: Economic & Recognition Incentives

The HLC will offer two cycles of the Residential Toolbox grant in 2019, including grants for seismic upgrades of historic residential properties. Information about the program and how to submit an application can be found at this link:

http://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/apply-for-a-residential-toolbox-grant.aspx

Awards recognizing both exceptional individuals and projects in historic preservation will be given out in May 2019, during Historic Preservation Month. We will also host our 5th annual “This Place Matters” historic photo contest in the spring of 2019, with the winners announced at the May HLC meeting.
GOAL 4: Survey and Designate Resources

We will complete the SESNA Survey of 3197 properties, verifying the historic data collected meets the SHPO standards and can be added to the statewide database.

GOAL 5: Promote Heritage Tourism and Local History

The HLC will continue to provide a liaison to the Salem Heritage and Culture Forum, a group that is working to promote Salem’s heritage and local history.

For more information about the Forum, visit their website: https://salemcultureandheritageforum.org/
The Salem Landmarks Commission will continue to work with the Friends of the Pioneer Cemetery, Willamette University and the Chinese American Community to interpret and share the history of the Chinese community in Salem through development of a plan to restore and interpret the Chinese Shrine at the Salem Pioneer Cemetery. The Salem HLC will also pursue funding to interpret diverse histories throughout Salem.

Salem's local leaders have committed to a policy of inclusiveness (i.e. Salem City Council's Resolution to become an Inclusive City in February of 2017). The Salem Historic Landmarks Commission holds the interpretation of the history of traditionally underrepresented communities as an important goal. The HLC will continue to work towards educating the community about the diverse foundations of our city.

Potential future interpretation could include the Kalapuyan village thought to have been located near the new Salem Police Facility, or the Chinese immigrants who lived and worked in Chinatown located in downtown Salem.