



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 24-047

Date: March 14, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Commissioners

From: Greg Chavarria, City Manager 
Greg Chavarria (Mar 25, 2024 09:05 EDT)

Re: **Strategic Historic Preservation Plan – 2023 Progress Report**

This memo is to inform you of a progress report that has been developed to track efforts pertaining to the Strategic Historic Preservation Plan that outlines action items that have been completed in 2023.

The City of Fort Lauderdale's Strategic Historic Preservation Plan was adopted by the City Commission on December 19, 2023. Preparation of the plan was identified as the first goal of the City's Comprehensive Plan under initiatives outlined in the Historic Preservation Element. Within the Comprehensive Plan it states that "the City shall prepare and adopt a long-term approach to historic preservation which identifies and evaluates the City's historic resources." Funding was obtained from the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources to support this effort and hire our consultant, the Craig Group LLC.

Included in the Strategic Historic Preservation Plan there are four (4) Goals, eleven (11) Objectives, and thirty-nine (39) action items. As part of the progress report, updates are provided for twelve (12) of the action items to highlight work that has been completed. Additionally, a status of the remaining action items is provided including five (5) that are in progress, five (5) that are ongoing, three (3) that are planned to begin in 2024, and fourteen (14) that have not yet started.

The Strategic Historic Preservation Plan in its entirety may be found here:
<https://www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/departments-a-h/development-services/urban-design-and-planning/initiatives>.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Trisha Logan, Principal Urban Planner, at 954-828-7101 or via email at tlogan@fortlauderdale.gov.

Attachment: Strategic Historic Preservation Plan – 2023 Progress Report

c: Anthony G. Fajardo, Assistant City Manager
Susan Grant, Assistant City Manager
Thomas J. Ansbro, City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
Department Directors
CMO Managers

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The [City of Fort Lauderdale's Strategic Historic Preservation Plan](#) was adopted by the City Commission on December 19, 2023. Preparation of the plan was identified as the first goal of the City's Comprehensive Plan under initiatives outlined in the Historic Preservation Element. Within the Comprehensive Plan it states that "the City shall prepare and adopt a long-term approach to historic preservation which identifies and evaluates the City's historic resources." Funding was obtained from the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources to support this effort and hire our consultant, the Craig Group LLC.

Goal 1: Increase resilience of historic resources to better withstand the threat of flooding and climate-related disasters.

Objective 1.2: Increase property owner knowledge of flood risk and climate-related disasters for historic resources.

Action 1.2.1: Encourage disaster preparedness and adaptation for historic resource owners and promote the benefits of the City's Community Improvement Projects (CIP) underway in flood hazard areas to reduce flood risk to historic properties.

Progress Report: The Historic Preservation website has been updated to include a link to the CIP project tracker:

<https://www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/departments-a-h/development-services/urban-design-and-planning/historic-preservation-resilience>

Action 1.2.2: Develop a toolkit and resource list for property owners, contractors, realtors, insurance providers and others as to how best to adapt historic resources to flooding and other disasters.

Progress Report: The Historic Preservation website has been updated to include links related to disaster preparedness and resiliency:

<https://www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/departments-a-h/development-services/urban-design-and-planning/historic-preservation-resilience>

Objective 1.3 Analyze risk and develop strategies to increase resilience for historic resource property owners.

Action 1.3.1: Apply for grant funding to develop adaptation strategies and prepare elevation certificates for all historic and archaeological resources. Encourage property owners to seek funding to implement solutions.

Progress Report: The City's Sustainability Division received grant funding in 2023 to conduct a vulnerability assessment which will include a review of historic and archaeological resources. This project is ongoing.

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Goal 2: Conduct new and update existing architectural resource surveys to evaluate properties for potential historic designation and digitize archival records.

Objective 2.1: Locate historic resource information in a central database and provide open access.

Action 2.1.2: Apply for a grant to digitize, archive, and display Sailboat Bend Civic Association Archives.

Progress Report: A grant has been awarded to digitize, archive, and display Sailboat Bend Civic Association Archives; however, a qualified consultant to perform the full scope of work has not been identified and the scope of work may need to be modified in order to move forward with a portion of the scope of work.

Objective 2.2: Conduct architectural resource surveys and provide open access to survey results and conclusions.

Action 2.2.2: Continue to apply to grants, including the Small-Matching Grant offered through the Florida Division of Historical Resources, to conduct architectural resource surveys towards the completion of a city-wide survey.

Progress Report: An Architectural Resource Survey of Riverside Park and Rio Vista was completed in August 2023. A grant has also been awarded to conduct an Architectural Resource Survey of Dorsey Riverbend, South Middle River, and Middle River and a consultant has been retained to conduct the work. This survey is expected to be completed in August 2024. To date, surveys for thirteen areas of the City have been completed. Past Architectural Resource Surveys are posted online:

<https://www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/departments-a-h/development-services/urban-design-and-planning/historic-preservation/architectural-resource-surveys>

Action 2.2.2(a): Prioritize funding for architectural resource surveys of historically Black communities in Fort Lauderdale and utilize the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center as a resource in identifying and promoting this aspect of the City's architectural and cultural heritage.

Progress Report: A grant has been awarded to conduct an Architectural Resource Survey of Dorsey Riverbend. Additional efforts would be pursued in the future.

Objective 2.3: Develop a protocol for archaeological research, documentation (including oral histories), education, and artifact recovery.

Action 2.3.2: Partner with FPAN to develop educational activities focused on documented sites of tribal significance and assist in the promotion of the annual Public Archaeology Month.

Progress Report: An event was held in March 2023 at the Rivermont Archaeological Site and park to highlight its significance with an interactive scavenger hunt to allow visitors to discover more about the archaeological history of this site, participate in hands on activities to learn more about archaeology, and see the recently opened Waverly Park.

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Goal 3: Ensure the City policies related to historic resources are consistent with the Certified Local Government (CLG) obligation to recognize and protect historic resources.

Objective 3.2: Promote existing incentives for inclusion in the City's historic preservation ordinance.

Action 3.2.1: Promote the State Historic Property Tax Abatement program and the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit program through a variety of online sources, including a question on the Certificate of Appropriateness application.

Progress Report: Information has been included on the Certificate of Appropriateness application form making property owners aware that the Ad Valorem Tax Exemption (10-year tax abatement) is available.

Goal 4: Collaborate with City and County agencies, community groups, and non-profit organizations to promote and provide education on historic places and historic preservation efforts.

Objective 4.1: Connect with existing programs and partners to educate residents and visitors about Fort Lauderdale's architectural, cultural, and archaeological heritage.

Action 4.1.3: Explore possible grants to develop interpretive panels, historic markers, street signs and/or street sign toppers, and audio tours to highlight the City's architectural, cultural, and archaeological heritage. Consider a partnership with Riverwalk, Inc. to develop a signage program along the New River.

Progress Report: A grant has been applied for to develop interpretative panels for the Sailboat Bend Historic District. If awarded, the City will be notified in July 2024.

Objective 4.2: Develop "how-to" resource guides and training programs to provide education to property owners, contractors, and the Historic Preservation Board on preservation topics and best practices of historic preservation.

Action 4.2.1: Partner with the Florida State Historic Preservation Office to invite the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) to conduct a Commissions Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) training for City staff, Historic Preservation Board (HPB) members, and local preservation organizations.

Progress Report: The National Association for Preservation Commissions (NAPC) provided training for the Historic Preservation Board (HPB) at a special meeting in September 2023.

Action 4.2.2: Develop and provide brief presentations by subject matter experts or other city agency staff at HPB meetings on historic preservation related topics of interest.

Progress Report: Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) provided a presentation with an overview of archaeology review to the HPB in October 2023.

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Below is an overview and status of each goal, objective, and action item outlined in the Strategic Historic Preservation Plan:

Goal 1: Increase the resilience of the historic resources to better withstand the threat of flooding and climate-related disasters.		
Objective 1.1: Investigate adaptation strategies		
	Action 1.1.1: Partner with higher educational institutions (i.e. University of Florida; Florida Atlantic University; University of Miami) and others already working in the field of historic preservation and resilience to assist in feasibility, economic, regulatory, and planning studies, and to conduct a design workshop or competition on flooding adaptation strategies to protect historic resources located in the Adaptation Action Areas or Special Flood Hazard Areas.	<i>Not Started</i>
	Action 1.1.2: In coordination with members of the Southeast Regional Climate Change Compact and the City's Sustainability Division, identify case studies and successful flooding adaptation, rehabilitation, road repair, seawall, and stormwater improvement projects that could be applied to historic resources to showcase as best practices.	<i>In Progress</i>
	Action 1.1.3: Partner with FEMA Region 4, the Florida State Floodplain Management program, and flood insurance providers to host demonstration projects, workshops, and provide materials to property owners regarding flood risk and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).	<i>Not Started</i>
Objective 1.2: Increase property owner knowledge on flood risk and climate-related disasters for historic resources.		
	Action 1.2.1: Encourage disaster preparedness and adaptation for historic resource owners and promote the benefits of the City's Community Improvement Projects (CIP) underway in flood hazard areas to reduce flood risk to historic properties.	<i>Update Provided on Page 1</i>
	Action 1.2.2: Develop a toolkit and resource list for property owners, contractors, realtors, insurance providers and others as to how best to adapt historic resources to flooding and other disasters	<i>Update Provided on Page 1</i>
	Action 1.2.3: Partner with the Chief Resilience Officer of Broward County, the Sustainability Division, and the Floodplain Program to disseminate information to citizens on FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Work together to increase flood resilience for historic resources that could reduce costs for NFIP policyholders.	<i>Planned for 2024</i>
	Action 1.2.4: Encourage property owners to plant more salt-water resistant trees, reduce the creation of new impervious surfaces, and install rain gardens or berms as flood protective measures. Provide resources on the historic preservation website, train applicable staff who perform plan reviews to assist property owners who undertake property improvements, perform an update of the historic preservation design guidelines, provide resources on the historic preservation website and update the historic preservation design guidelines accordingly.	<i>Not Started</i>
	Action 1.2.5: Develop and incorporate a common language for adaptation and resilience in preservation documents, design guidelines, and communications consistent with other City agencies' plans and ordinances.	<i>Not Started</i>
Objective 1.3: Analyze risk and develop strategies to increase resilience for historic resource property owners.		
	Action 1.3.1: Apply for grant funding to develop adaptation strategies and prepare elevation certificates for all historic and archaeological resources. Encourage property owners to seek funding to implement solutions	<i>Update Provided on Page 1</i>
	Action 1.3.2: Conduct intensive level architectural resource surveys of properties most at risk of loss due to new development pressures and from natural disasters, as determined by a vulnerability risk assessment.	<i>Not Started</i>
	Action 1.3.3: Analyze current infrastructure improvements using the CIP's <i>LauderWorks</i> interactive GIS map to determine any adverse impacts to historic resources that could be mitigated through consultation with the Floodplain with Floodplain Manager and the Sustainability Division.	<i>Not Started</i>
	Action 1.3.4: Explore possible grant funding to conduct an economic analysis of the value of historic assets within the Special Flood Hazard Area to Fort Lauderdale's economy including assessing the revenue impact of flooding disasters.	<i>Not Started</i>

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Goal 2: Conduct new and update existing architectural resource surveys to evaluate properties for potential historic designation and digitize archival records		
Objective 2.1: Locate historic resource information in a central database and provide open access.		
	Action 2.1.1: Continue digital documentation of existing archival and survey paper records related to historic resources held by the City of Fort Lauderdale to incorporate into an ArcGIS database.	Ongoing
	Action 2.1.2: Apply for a grant to digitize, archive, and display Sailboat Bend Civic Association Archives	Update Provided on Page 2
Objective 2.2: Conduct architectural resource surveys and provide open access to survey results and conclusions.		
	Action 2.2.1: Provide access to survey results and conclusions on the City's website, including an ArcGIS StoryMap to visually display information and allow for ease of searching.	Update Provided on Page 2
	Action 2.2.2: Continue to apply to grants, including the Small-Matching Grant offered through the Florida Division of Historical Resources, to conduct architectural resource surveys towards the completion of a city-wide survey.	Update Provided on Page 2
	Action 2.2.2(a): Prioritize funding for architectural resource surveys of historically Black communities in Fort Lauderdale and utilize the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center as a resource in identifying and promoting this aspect of the City's architectural and cultural heritage.	Update Provided on Page 2
	Action 2.2.2(b): Identify and record oral histories of individuals knowledgeable of Fort Lauderdale's Black history.	Planned for 2024
Objective 2.3: Develop a protocol for archaeological research, documentation (including oral histories), education, and artifact recovery.		
	Action 2.3.1: Partner with Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) to identify a means to collect and store archaeological data collection and artifact recovery into a centralized ArcGIS database.	Not Started
	Action 2.3.2: Partner with FPAN to develop educational activities focused on documented sites of tribal significance and assist in the promotion of the annual Public Archaeology Month.	Update Provided on Page 2
	Action 2.3.2(a): Prepare an amendment to the historic preservation ordinance to establish a Certificate to Dig (CTD) process.	In Progress
	Action 2.3.4: Apply for a grant to conduct a review of the "Archaeological Survey of Broward County," originally conducted by the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, Inc., to update portions related to the City of Fort Lauderdale, and to create an archaeological sensitivity map.	Not Started
Goal 3: Ensure the City policies related to historic resources are consistent with the Certified Local Government (CLG) obligation to recognize and protect historic resources.		
Objective 3.1: Review and evaluate City regulations for improvements to enhance the historic preservation program.		
	Action 3.1.1: Amend the Sailboat Bend Historic District ordinance to provide greater clarity on design guidance for historic properties and their surrounding environment.	In Progress
	Action 3.1.2: Amend the Historic Preservation District ordinance to provide a general update to align this section with other ULDR sections and provide greater clarity within the existing text.	In Progress
	Action 3.1.3: Review regulations in the City's ULDR and consider changes to disincentivize destruction of historic resources.	In Progress
Objective 3.2: Promote existing incentives for inclusion in the City's historic preservation ordinance.		
	Action 3.2.1: Promote the State Historic Property Tax Abatement program and the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit program through a variety of online sources, including as a question on the Certificate of Appropriateness application	Update Provided on Page 3

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	Action 3.2.2: Research and determine the feasibility to create a new local tax incentive for property and structural improvements that reduce historic resource flood risk.	<i>Not Started</i>
	Action 3.2.3: Research and determine the feasibility of establishing a grant or loan program for the rehabilitation of historic resources.	<i>Not Started</i>
	Action 3.2.3: Coordinate with the Housing and Community Development (HCD) Division, determine the feasibility and usefulness of a residential historic revolving loan fund using the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to support historic resources and affordable housing.	<i>Not Started</i>
Goal 4: Collaborate with City and County agencies, community groups, and non-profit organizations to promote and provide education on historic places and historic preservation efforts.		
Objective 4.1: Connect with existing programs and partners to educate residents and visitors about Fort Lauderdale's architectural, cultural, and archaeological heritage.		
	Action 4.1.1: Encourage the Fort Lauderdale Historic Society to support school curriculum on Florida history to providing information and resources to teachers on historic places in Fort Lauderdale	<i>Ongoing</i>
	Action 4.1.2: Support efforts of the Broward Trust for Historic Preservation to promote National Historic Preservation Month.	<i>Ongoing</i>
	Action 4.1.3: Explore possible grants to develop interpretive panels, historic markers, street signs and/or street sign toppers, and audio tours to highlight the City's architectural, cultural, and archaeological heritage. Consider a partnership with Riverwalk, Inc. to develop a signage program along the New River.	<i>Update Provided on Page 3</i>
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	Action 4.2.2: Develop and provide brief presentations by subject matter experts or other city agency staff at HPB meetings on historic preservation related topics of interest.	<i>Update Provided on Page 3</i>
	Action 4.2.3: Develop a resource guide to assist property owners in researching the history of their building.	<i>Planned for 2024</i>
	Action 4.2.4: Coordinate with other local government historic preservation offices to develop a resource guide and training for contractors in the construction trades on historic rehabilitation practices.	<i>Not Started</i>
Objective 4.3: Increase property and business owner awareness of benefits and responsibilities owning or managing a historic property		
	Action 4.3.1: Continue to provide an inclusive approach to communicating the value of Fort Lauderdale's architectural and cultural heritage by utilizing paper, electronic, and social media as appropriate to the selected audience.	<i>Ongoing</i>
	Action 4.3.2: Develop a resource list of architects, contractors, structural engineers, property managers, and facility managers who are experienced in the proper rehabilitation and upkeep of historic properties.	<i>Not Started</i>
	Action 4.3.3: Continue to provide updates and maintain a dialog with civic associations containing historic districts on proposed amendments to the ULDR, the benefits of historic preservation, and potential improvements that would ensure the long-term vitality of each historic district.	<i>Ongoing</i>

Legend

 Near Term	 Mid Term	 Long Term	 Ongoing/Reoccurring
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